

the **WHOLE** *Truth*

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

105TH

Anniversary Edition

Celebrating the
Re-Launch of The
Whole Truth

**"WISDOM FROM
THE BOSOM"**

**TIM
BROWN**
a man on a mission

*Get Health Awareness
with Dr. Joe*

.....

Pastor's Corner
Bishop Jerry Maynard
& Pastor Carl Pierce

.....

**When Colleagues
Talk** *A Tribute to Bishop
Chandler David Owens*

.....

**WINDOW OF
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Spotlight on world events

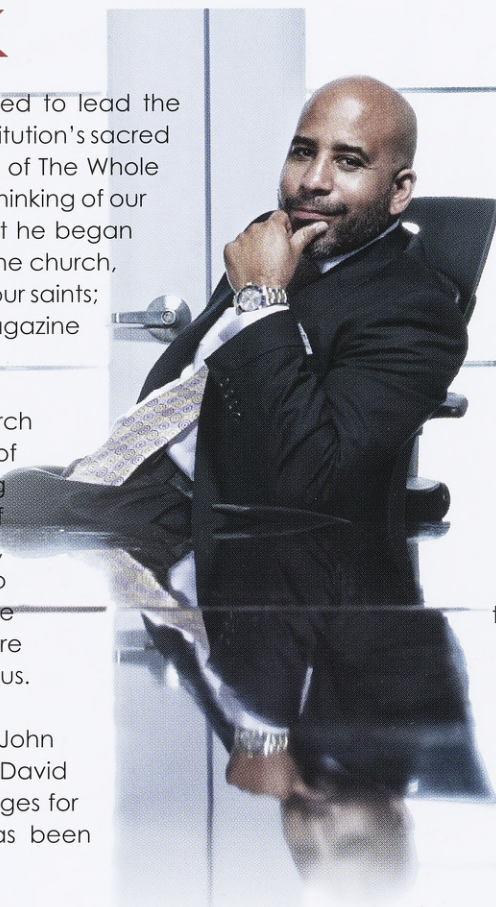
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JULY 2011 | VOL7 | NO.2

I am honored, humbled, and inspired to lead the process of recreating one of our institution's sacred treasures. The history and heritage of The Whole Truth is anchored in the philosophy and thinking of our founder, Bishop Charles H. Mason. What he began as personal epistle to the leadership of the church, eventually became broadcast even to our saints; and in its current state, constitutes a magazine open to believers everywhere.

As we align and reengage the Church hierarchy, the saints and the friends of COGIC, we will explore the exciting diversity of our church. The challenges of our world feed the interests of our readers, and through the voices of our leadership and the technology of tomorrow, we must captivate our membership to share The Whole Truth of God's Great Plan for us.

Under the leadership of our Chairman, John Daniels, and the partnership of our CEO, David Hall, this becomes one of many challenges for change, that the publishing house has been enlisted to promulgate.



In the words of our **Chief Apostle, Rt. Rev. Charles E. Blake**, "I see this magazine in the future and it looks much better."

To this end, the mission of The Whole Truth is to inspire ~~our~~ congregation through a reinvigorated concept, characterized by a new look and engaging features. These features will be the staples – the substance and direction that will fulfill the mission of the new Whole Truth. They include feature stories that will examine the diversity and complexity of people who make our church great. From the leaders of our church to the laity of our congregation, to young people who are taking the world by storm.

Chair, The Whole Truth Magazine

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and future by O.
Wiggins*

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of documents and people
from the first 100 years

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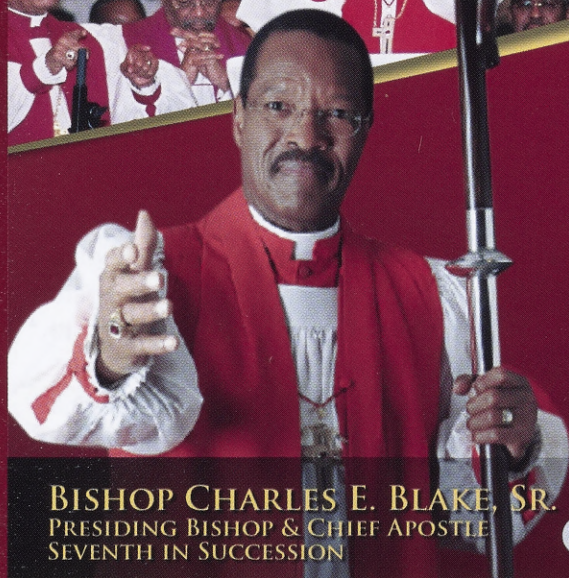
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These feature articles will always exist as staples to guide the new Whole Truth.

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God's People,
God's Agenda!*



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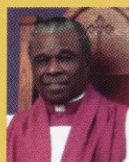
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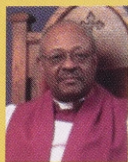
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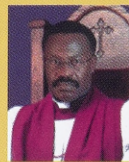
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Dear Saints;

We are particularly pleased to provide you this world-class edition of the Whole Truth magazine. The Whole Truth has been a critical part of the Church Of God In Christ for decades and has a special place in our history. We also appreciate that with the changes in technology and media, that having a world-class magazine supporting Christian faith is consistent with the vision that has been developed in our church. This effort to provide you (our important members) the most vibrant periodical of its type has resulted in enormous enthusiasm. Like the transformation of our Sunday School literature, the new Whole Truth offers another vehicle to advance our vision and commitment and of course, to share the good news of what is happening around the globe in COGIC. We hope you will enjoy it. I should add that the next edition in connection with the 2011 Convocation will be particularly special because it will have features involving Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake and several other leaders of the church. One of the remarkable achievements of the new Whole Truth is that we were able to enlist some of the best writers in COGIC to participate in this effort and we thank them for their time and commitment. And now, we're off to the challenge of reshaping, reintroducing, and rebuilding the Whole Truth. On behalf of the members of the publishing board, we pray that you read and enjoy!

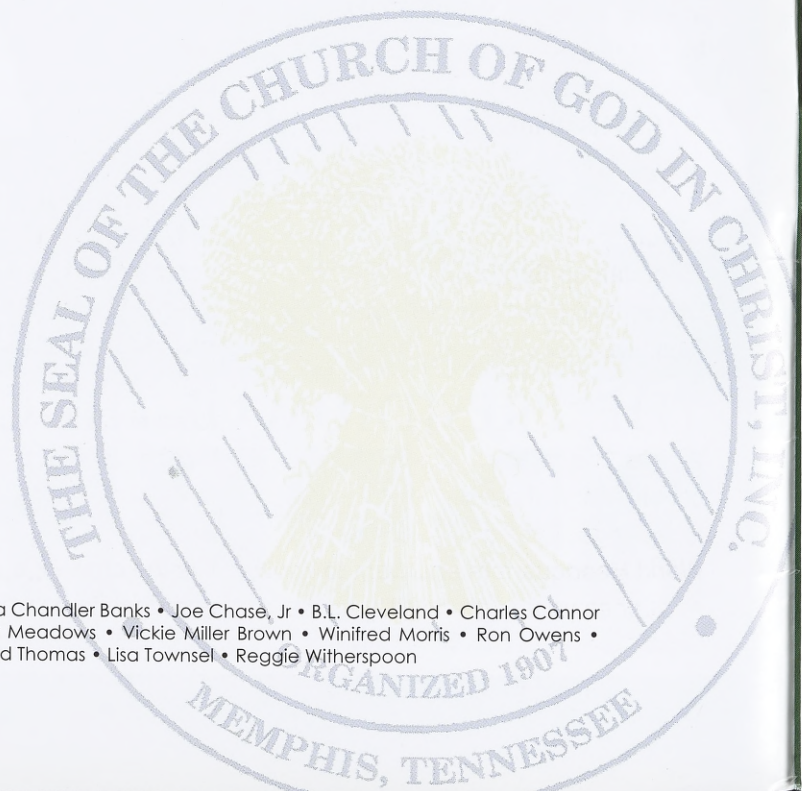


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Memphis Insider

by Evangelist B. Irons



Within every organization, there's always a core group, a collective of individuals who work to make the organization that they are a part of operate. At the World Headquarters of the Church Of God In Christ, there are people who go into their offices everyday, just as we all do, and do their 8 to 5. These persons are generally not recognized, however, they go to work and perform their duties to assure that the administration of the Church functions in excellence.

In each edition of the Whole Truth Magazine, we will feature a Memphis Insider; someone who helps to keep the wheels of the Church in motion. This writer had the opportunity to sit and talk with the first 'Insiders' for this re-launch edition of the Whole Truth, Elder James Smith- Chief Operating Officer, and Elder Tyrone Potts-Chief Financial Officer of the Church Of God In Christ.

Whole Truth: Many of the constituency of our church have no knowledge of the operation of our World Headquarters and want to know, what does your responsibility as the Chief Operating Officer entail?

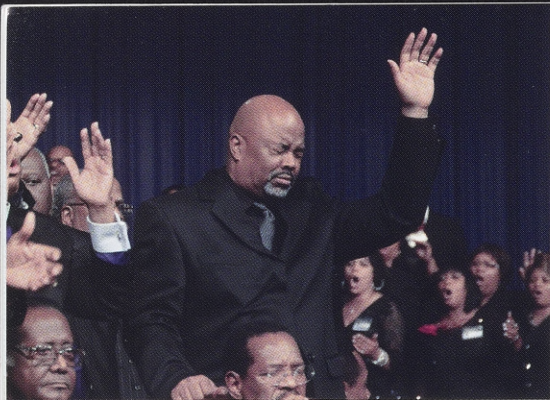
Smith: I am for the most part the senior manager of Headquarters and those responsibilities flow in two directions. One is related to development; the other is related to administration. First, development means looking at headquarters, and looking at it in terms of continual improvement. What ministries, what cutting edge approaches can be used to operate a campus of this size? In some cases it means resizing the way we operate. And then on the side of administration, looking at Headquarters and how to manage it, so I see myself largely as referee; I see myself largely as central coordinator of activities.

Whole Truth: What are the challenges you face to do this job within our organization, which is sometimes driven by personalities? **Smith:** In order for us to enter into the 21st century, utilizing new equipment, initiating new approaches to administration, building teams, holding people accountable, and at the same time encouraging the greatest productivity of those individuals, I think it is the challenge of an incremental approach to paradigm shift. My approach to that has always been



to sort of figure out how it becomes a win-win, which is one of Stephen Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.... to create win-win through people.

Paradigm shift is the greater challenge, how are other organizations around the nation and the world functioning at high levels of productivity? What are they doing, and is any of that transferable to the Church Of God In Christ? I think what you discover in that, is that for people who have established a pattern of doing, and that pattern works for them, getting them to see a larger picture, can be the challenge and so it's an incremental approach.



Whole Truth: The Jurisdiction and local churches take their cues from the National Church, Will you share with our readers some things you do at this highest level of administration that you feel can benefit the Jurisdictional Prelate and the local pastor?

Smith: Perpetual motion, cultures change, and the Church must be adaptable without compromise on how it refines its message and its delivery of ministry to meet an ever-changing culture. I think that is what the Presiding Bishop represents is a person who sees over the horizon, understands that change is coming, and then discovers ways that he can remain relevant in this changing culture, and I believe that is what every church should do, should discern how it remains relevant.

Whole Truth: In II Corinthians 4:1, apostle Paul said to the Corinthian church “we” have this ministry...what do you believe the local assemblies and jurisdictions can do to assist the Presiding Bishop in perpetuating “this ministry”?

Smith: First seek to understand, secondly seek to follow, knowing that you reap what you sow. And in order to reap a good harvest, you have to plant good seed, so if you first seek to understand and secondly, seek to follow, I think you’ve planted good seed.

Whole Truth: Have there been any challenges with making the newly renovated Lee Building ready for occupancy, and do you know what the plans are for the building on the campus of Mason Temple?

Smith: If there have been challenges with the Lee Building, I’m not aware of them. What I know is that we have paced its fore readiness, because there was no urgency to do it differently. That pacing turned out to be a good thing, because we are now able to identify that the old Publishing House becomes, by the Presiding Bishop’s directive, the National Officers Building, and the Lee Building becomes the Presiding Bishop’s Office and Administration, and then our Founders home, becomes the Mason Executive House-the offices of the General Board.

Whole Truth: What do you see for the future for World Headquarters?

Smith: By and large, my role here is to execute the directives of the Chief Executive Officer, Presiding Bishop Blake, I’m clear about that. And I can tell you what he envisions: north of Mason Temple is new residential development (affordable housing), and possibly senior housing. We can expect the Chisca to be razed, and temporarily a parking lot; the hardware building that we own, which is approximately 7000 square feet, we’re looking at opportunities for retail space on the first level and condo space on the second. We are looking at a relationship with the tourism bureau to collaborate, and how Mason Temple as a National historic site maximizes its tourism; and we expect that to happen rather quickly.

Internal to the organization, the Presiding Bishop has consented to the formulation of a Quality Assurance Team, and that’s important because we are taking individuals who have served at the senior levels of corporate America, who are members of the Church Of God In Christ and putting them around the table and asking them to assess the operations of Headquarters, and to make recommendations to the Presiding Bishop; their work will begin in June. They will begin with the development of a QAP (Quality Assurance Program), and that’s an exciting moment for me.



The new Lee Building on our sacred campus. General Board Member Sedgwick Daniels led the community to restore the building in 2010.

Whole Truth: When I worked under your administration, you said each person should have a personal mission statement. You said the statement should be simple enough to put on a T-shirt, so to close this interview, give me your mission statement, your three words that best describe James Smith?

Smith: Transparent, Accountable, Christian.



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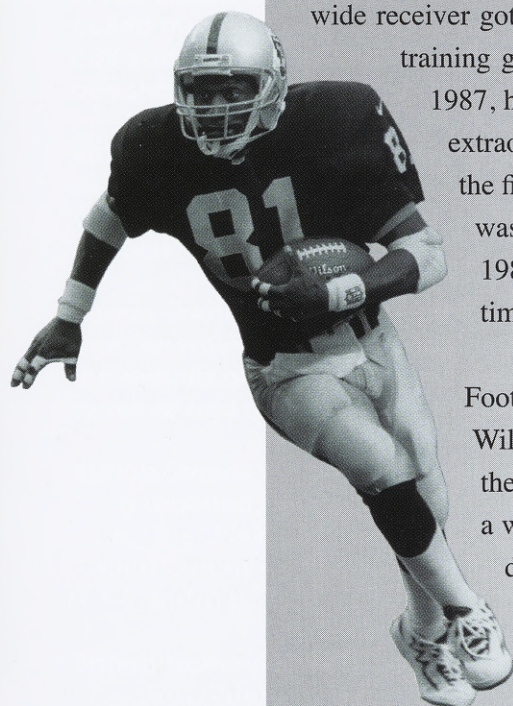
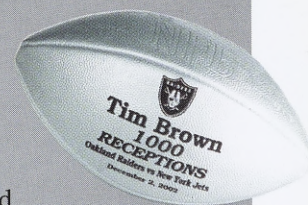
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Tim Brown *A Man on a Mission*

by Lisa Townsel



For the longest time, life seemed like one big party for Tim Brown. The famed wide receiver got his start at the University of Notre Dame, arguably the nation's top training ground for National Football League players. While there between 1984 and 1987, he racked up 137 receptions, 5,024 all-purpose yards and 22 touchdowns. His extraordinary play and tenacity also won him the 1987 Heisman Trophy (making him the first wide receiver to grasp the coveted honor). And, if that were not enough, he was swiftly scooped up by the Los Angeles Raiders as the sixth overall pick in the 1988 NFL draft. (The Raiders returned to Oakland in 1995; and Brown – a nine-time Pro Bowler – played with them for 16 of his 17 seasons in the league.)

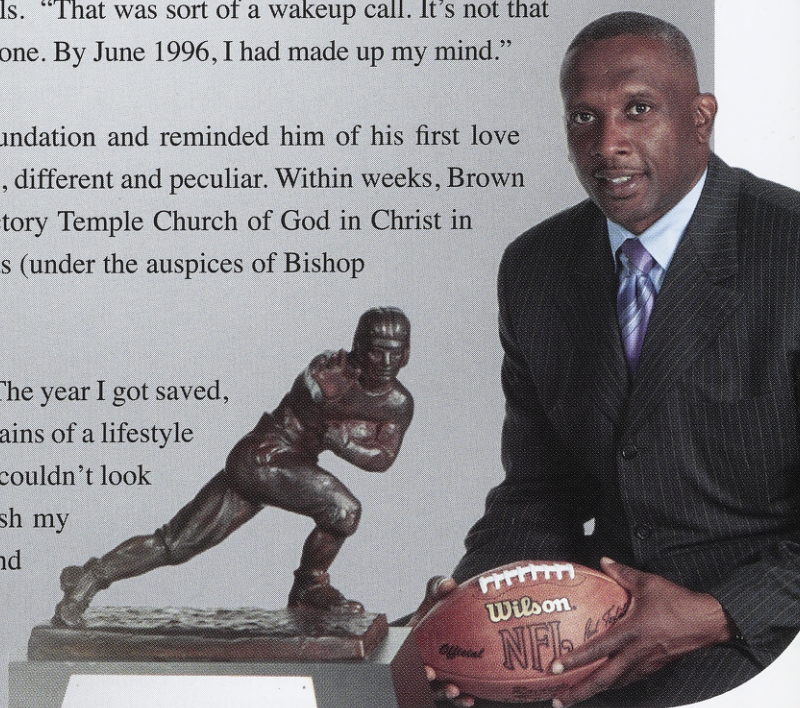
Footloose and fancy free, the Dallas native who was the star player at Woodrow Wilson High School enjoyed the spoils that came along with stardom. He'd graced the cover of Sports Illustrated magazine, driven a fleet of sports cars, signed many a weighty contract, been inducted into the Texas and College Halls of Fame and dated some of the Who's Who in entertainment.

Suffice it to say that it was pretty easy for him to abandon his staunchly Christian upbringing that emphasized living a holy and pure life.

But his spiral of play today, pay tomorrow came to a screeching halt when he accompanied his "famous" unnamed girlfriend to a recording studio, where she planned on making an album late one night. There until 4 o'clock in the morning, Brown met a legendary music producer who looked at him knowingly and cleared everyone else out of the room. With just the two of them present, the producer told the football star, "I've heard and known a lot about you, and this is not where you want to be," Brown recalls. "That was sort of a wakeup call. It's not that you ask God for signs, but for me, it was one. By June 1996, I had made up my mind."

The chance meeting shook Brown's foundation and reminded him of his first love and of the fact that he was to be set apart, different and peculiar. Within weeks, Brown accepted Christ at his home church, Victory Temple Church of God in Christ in the Texas Northeast jurisdiction in Dallas (under the auspices of Bishop J. Neaul Haynes).

Let him tell it, he didn't have a choice. "The year I got saved, I couldn't take myself anymore," he explains of a lifestyle that had left him spiritually bankrupt. "I couldn't look at myself in the mirror, not even to brush my teeth. I thought I was enjoying life and having fun." [continued on page 12]





When Colleagues **TALK** by Margy LaFond Rhodes

A Tribute to Bishop Chandler David Owens

October 1, 1931- March 6, 2011

"The steps of a great man are ordained by the Lord" –Bishop J. N. Haynes

Presiding Bishop Blake and several other vicars were kind enough to share their fondest memories of one of the most venerated men in the history of COGIC.

God has graced a select number of people the coveted seats and highest honors to a select group of chosen men who are the vicars of the Church of God in Christ. Bishop Owens' legacy is immeasurable. From his early days as Evangelist, this church prince was responsible for bringing thousands of souls to God. The impact he has had on the lives of everyone who knew him will be felt for generations to come. As presiding Charles E. Blake, Sr. said at the service to celebrate Bishop Owens' life, "Bishop Owens was a giant in COGIC. Most of us have never known a church without Bishop Owens."

Bishop Owens will be remembered as a role model. Presiding Bishop Blake recalls Bishop Owens as the premier young evangelist, "We all wanted to be like him." Several other Bishops interviewed for this article mentioned that whenever they were faced with a tough decision, they asked themselves, "What would Chandler do?"

Many current church leaders have said they don't know where they would be today without the examples set by Bishop Owens. Bishop Nathaniel Wells remembers a day in 1983 when Bishop Owens called him and said, "Sonny, your Daddy's blood is crying out from the grave. We have to make you a Bishop."

He will be remembered as a great leader. Under his leadership as Presiding Bishop the church reached new heights in attendance and financial solvency. Bishop Owens never wanted anyone to see his church in a negative light. Bishop Haynes remembers picking up the phone late on a Friday afternoon and finding Bishop Owens on the other end. "We have a problem," he said. "One of our pastors ordered a bunch of bibles and they are going to be delivered on Sunday. He doesn't have the money to pay for them so I need \$50,000 in cash from you by Sunday so he won't be embarrassed. I'm giving \$50,000 and I'm asking another Bishop for \$50,000. "

Bishop Haynes, who was astonished by the request, asked Bishop Owens how he was expected to find \$50,000 in cash by Sunday when the banks had already closed for the week. To this Bishop Owens replied, "Well I believe that's between you and God" and he hung up. Somehow Bishop Haynes managed to find \$50,000 and the bibles were paid for.

Throughout his seven decades in the church, Bishop Owens held many leadership positions. Bishop Sedwick Daniels recalls that Bishop Owens was determined to contribute to and be a vanguard for the traditions of the church.

Bishop Owens had the ability to inspire young people to dream big dreams. Bishop Daniels says, "He was their most avid fan and an active participant in celebrating their dreams coming to fruition."

Bishop Owens will be remembered for his compassion and wit. He never forgot where he came from. The Bishop's closest friends will always treasure the thousands of stories he would tell and the million acts of kindness they witnessed him perform. He was a true humanitarian who fought for his convictions. He had a genuine concern for the unsaved and the sick.



When Bishop George McKinney was going through, "...a season when I was very discouraged; Bishop Owens called me. We hadn't spoken for a while so I was surprised to hear voice. 'George', he said, 'the Lord told me to call you.' He spoke to me for about an hour and when the conversation was over I felt that he had blessed me beyond measure."

Bishop Owens was a confident man, equally comfortable speaking to people in the most humble of circumstances as to kings and presidents. According to Bishop P.A. Books, it was Bishop Owens, who introduced President Clinton as, "The first Black president", a description that delighted Clinton who thereafter often referred to himself as such.

Bishop Owens will be remembered as a great man of God. Bishop White says that Bishop Owens always prayed that "he would decrease and Christ would increase. Bishop Owens was a superior church apologist; he understood the tenants of the church and vigorously defended them. He had heaven in his view, dreams to realize, goals to achieve and mountainous visions to climb."

Bishop Owens will be remembered as a peacemaker and unifier. Bishop George McKinney called Bishop Owens "... a sobering influence. He knew how to talk to people who were at odds with each other. " He was credited with being the driving force in bringing former Presiding G.E. Patterson back to the church after an 11-year absence. Bishop Owens remained close friends with Bishop Patterson throughout these years despite great pressure to end the friendship.

Bishop Nathaniel Wells, Jr. feels a special connection to Bishop Owens because Bishop Owens saved his father's churches. When a former Bishop of Southwest Michigan was trying to split Bishop Wells, Sr.'s churches, it was Bishop Owens who came to Michigan and gathered all of the pastors together in a crusade that persuaded COGIC leaders to keep Bishop Well's churches intact. That crusade became an annual event in Michigan, with Bishop Owens returning summer after summer to lead the crusade and show his unwavering support of Bishop Wells.

Bishop Samuel Green states "Bishop Owens was my friend. He preached the funeral of my wife of 60 years and then performed my marriage to my current wife. He worked in harmony with his leaders. We shall miss him because he was a tremendous leader and great person. I thank God for Bishop Owens. In life, we all learn to lose things and persons that we value. I feel that way about Bishop Owens, My prayers go out to his lovely wife Shirley, and the children."

Most of all, Bishop Owens will be remembered as possibly the greatest speaker in COGIC history. Presiding Bishop Blake has called Bishop Owens, "a silvery-toned orator with class, dignity and a unique style." Bishop Owens had a way of painting word pictures that was both dynamic and compelling.

Bishop Owens suffered enormous health challenges for a number of years. However, he knew there was still work to be done, so he completed his work in his later years with a great sense of urgency. Bishop Daniels had the privilege of being with Bishop Owens in his final hours, "I truly believe Bishop Owens had prepared for his heavenly reward and embraced his divine rest."

He will be remembered and missed for ages to come, but as Bishop Frank White said, "Even though his voice has been silenced, the echo of his voice is still resonating with the music of the wisdom of his words."

He leaves to mourn a bench of colleagues, some of who have had the privilege to serve under him and others who have had the privilege to serve with him. He has an absence that can never be filled. The general assembly has mandated that the remainder of his term be left open to his legacy and memory; and at the convenience of the presidium that his seat remains vacant until the close of the quadrennial.

Chief Apostle, Rt. Rev. Charles E. Blake, General Board Members: Phillip Aquilla Brooks, II • Jerry Wayne Macklin • Roy Lawrence Hailey Winbush • Chandler David Owens • J. Neaul Haynes • Samuel Lee Green, Jr. • George Dallas McKinney • Nathaniel Wyoming Wells • Sedgwick Daniels • Frank O. White

Tim Brown *A Man on a Mission*
[continued from page 9]

But now he knew that he had to take a stand for what was right; for years, his pastor, Eld. Lafayette Whitley had plainly told him so. In fact, Brown recalls him being relentless. The elder often reminded him that it was either heaven or hell – no gray space in between, not even for star athletes.

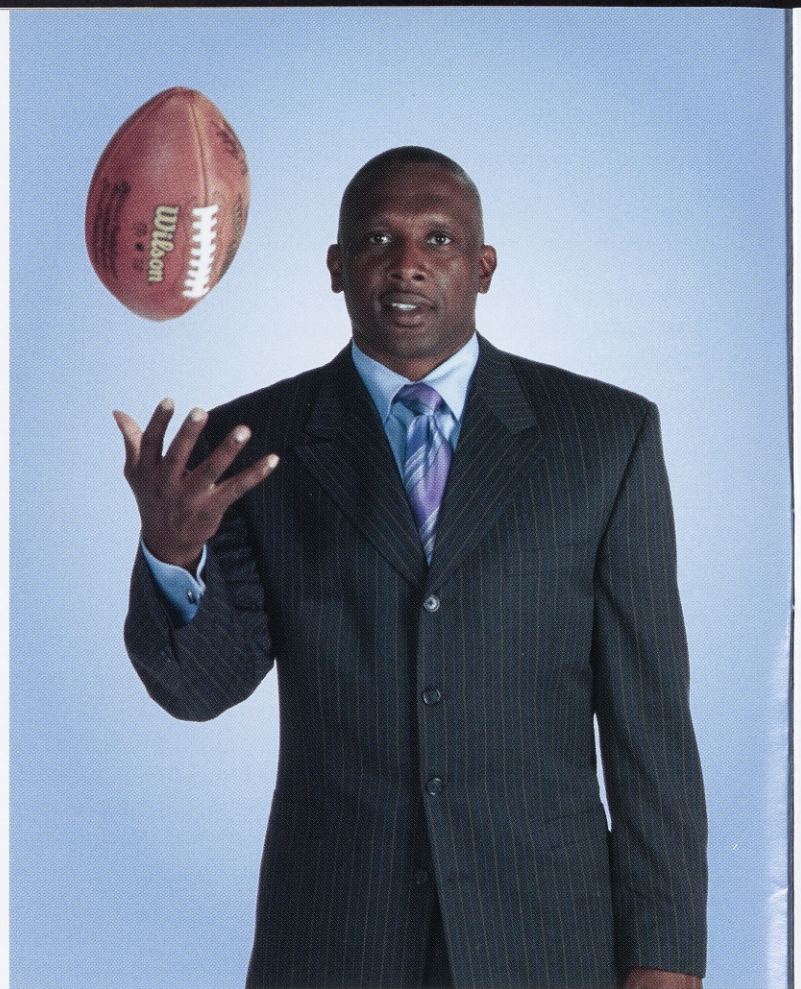
“I was looking for him to tell me that certain things that I got caught up in were OK. But what he said to me is, ‘Son, you’ve got to live holy and that means setting yourself apart and being sanctified,’” says Brown, now a member of the church trustee board. “Being 21, 22, 23 years old, being able to hang out with movie stars, models, etcetera. It put me in a position that I knew that I had to make a choice. If it were not for his teaching and him treating me that way, I would’ve been a different person.”

For his part, Elder Whitley adds: “I wasn’t any harder on him than other young men at the church,” he says. “He was always able to adhere and listen to what the Scriptures said. The things we taught him eventually caught hold.”

Meanwhile, Brown’s football career was in full gear. He was playing for the Raiders and had picked up team records for touchdowns (100), receiving yards (14,934 yards) and punt return yards (3,320 yards), and he scored 1,094 career receptions. Moreover, fans had crowned him “Mr. Raider.” (This was not exactly the guy one would expect to risk his status to become an ambassador for Christ. But Brown had.)

George Koonce, a former defensive linebacker with the Green Bay Packers and Seattle Seahawks, played in the NFL from 1992-2000. “Tim as a true role model; that’s from my perspective as a former player, a former student athlete and basically as a fan,” says Koonce. “A lot of us were bestowed that title because we played in the NFL or were actors or actresses, but he took that title seriously. He and (the late) Reggie White were bound by the same thread: a strong foundation in the word of God. And those two individuals, they stood the test of time.”

Looking back, Brown, now 44, is surprised by how life took him full circle. After retiring from the NFL in 2004, he returned to Dallas. Now, he and Sherice, his wife of 14 years, share a 20,000sf home with their three children: Timon, age 12, and boy-girl twins, Timothy Jr. and Tamar,



ages 8. (Tim also has an adult son, Taylor, age 22.) Unlike the two-bedroom house he shared with his parents, Eugene and Josephine Brown, and his five siblings, Brown’s current home sits on a five-acre lot and includes a racquetball court, theater, gym, steam room and arcade.

His mother was then and is now a staunch believer and missionary within the Church of God in Christ. “This lady lived (holiness) in front of us,” he says. “She set an example that was very high, and I am very thankful for her.”

Brown credits his mom with positively impacting his career although remarkably she only came to one game – ever. But that one was monumental. The date was December 2, 2002, when Brown made his 1,000th career reception, making him the third player in NFL history to surpass 1,000 receptions.) To celebrate the milestone, the Raiders flew in members of his family. Shortly after he got tackled, a golf cart entered the field carrying his wife, children and parents. “I was blown away. Shocked,” Brown says, sounding exasperated from the mere thought. “She would usually cook during a game or pray, but she rarely watched.”

Brown's relationship with his dad had been strained during his teenage years, but it improved as he got older. Though always present, Brown said his dad, who worked in construction and owned a nightclub, rarely made time for him. He attended some of his high school games, but the football star only learned that fact as an adult.

Nevertheless, he was one of many men to leave an indelible mark.

Had it not been for Notre Dame Coach Lou Holtz, Brown says he almost certainly would not have made it to the pros. Holtz took over as coach of The Fighting Irish in 1986. Almost immediately, he zeroed in on Brown as an underutilized asset on the team. "When Lou Holtz came in, I was focused on getting my education; I was looking beyond college and college ball. I was looking forward to going on with life. But when Lou got there, two days after practice, he started saying that he thought I could be the best player in college football. I thought it was just a tactic of a new coach. But he kept bringing me film to review in practice.

"Then one day, I walked on the field thinking I can be the best player and the game changed, the intensity changed, practice changed," Brown says. "He changed the way I looked at football and myself."

Back then, Brown made the College All-America Team twice but his college team didn't win the national title until after he graduated. By the time he was in full throttle with the Raiders, he had become a powerhouse of sorts, thanks to his quick and consistent plays.

In preparation for games against the Raiders, former linebacker Koonce says his coaches often prepared the defensive linemen for Brown: "Coaches would talk about, 'If we're not careful, if we don't do what we're supposed to, he's the type of player that can absolutely take over a game,'" says Koonce, a COGIC member and born-again Christian himself.

On or off the field, Brown had always had a reputation for being opinionated about topics ranging from coaching to his personal beliefs. That trait continues to be a powerful part of his witness as his social circle grows to include many of the rich and famous.

"Sometimes, I go about my business. But since I've been out of the game and around certain people on a regular

basis, I feel a need to speak to pastors, to entertainers. If what they're saying is contrary to the Word of God, I'm going to have a conversation with them," he says matter of factly. "So at the end of day, we'll still be friends, but if I lose friendship over telling them the truth I'm not afraid of it."

A lot of what he advocates now is directly related to what Elder Whitley spoon-fed him years ago. Privately, the pastor admits that he exhaled when it was evident that Brown was for real and not back-tracking in his beliefs. "I didn't know for sure, but I always try to instill in people the things that God would accept," he says. "I always felt that at some point he would fully commit himself to the Lord."

Then Satan tried to rattle Brown's will again. In 2004, in a shocking turn of events, the Raiders released Brown, and he finished out his career with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for what he called "a tough and humbling year." A year later, he signed a one-day contract with the Raiders to retire with the team.

His legacy today goes beyond sports. "Tim changed the face of football," Koonce says. "For a lot of us, it was like a secret to be saved in the locker room, on the practice field and on the charter flights. That is until Tim Brown came along and said,

“
**It's OK to be saved. I'm going
to wear it on my sleeve and give
Him all the glory.**
”

A lot of guys were just looking to see if he would slip up. But, Tim he was extraordinary in his faith."

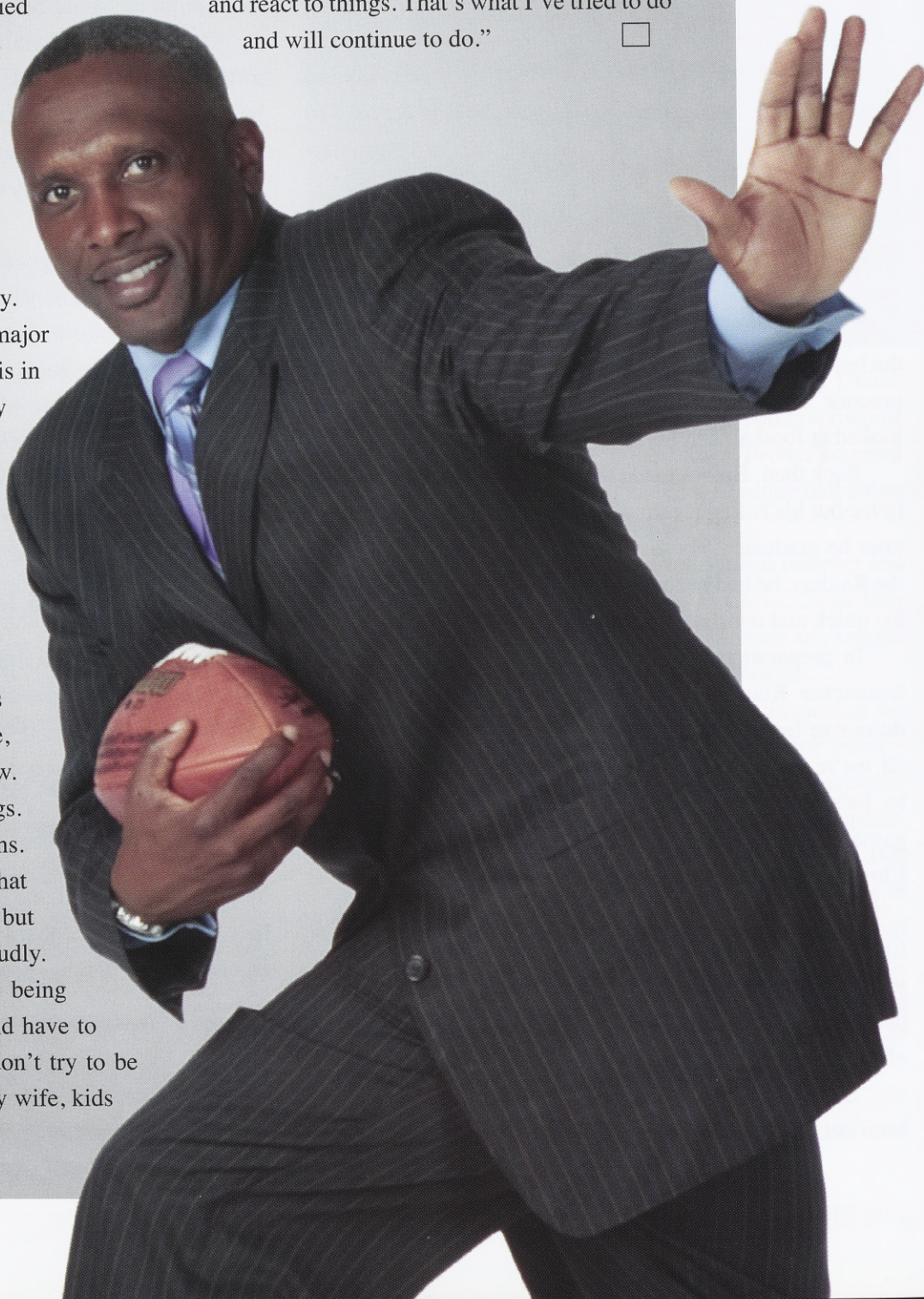
Elder Whitley agrees. "After football, the Lord really blessed. He's run all kind of summer programs and camps; he's on the trustee board of the church and the council committee for young people; and he does a lot in the community."

Still not one to sit on his laurels, Brown busies himself with several key enterprises as part of his company, Locker 81 Fundraising Solutions. In the past, he owned a shoe company and dabbled in NASCAR racing. He now runs the Smart Giving Program, an initiative that helps nonprofits raise funds by way of debit card use. He tours the country as a speaker and spokesperson for several organizations. And during football season, he chimes in as a commentator for college football on ESPN 3-D.

While he maintains a frenzied work schedule, his first priority is family. On any given weekend, he is front and center at his son's basketball games or daughter's cheerleading routines. He offers these quick quips about his children: "For my oldest son, football is what kept Daddy away. He's a very smart kid, a biology major in college, a bookworm. Timon is in intramural sports and is pretty athletic. My daughter is into volleyball and competitive cheerleading. But if it rolls or bounces, Timmy wants to be involved with it. Little man Timmy is in two basketball leagues."

As for the temptations in his life, they've changed. "For me, the problem I had before isn't now. I wasn't ever a drinker. Not drugs. Those were never my temptations. My temptation was women. That was the issue I had to deal with; but not on this side," he says proudly. "Once you present yourself as being a man of God, the person would have to be a real devil Because I don't try to be aggravating, but I talk about my wife, kids and God all the time."

Brown doesn't have any real regrets to speak of, but he is holding out all hope to one day be enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. (He was nominated in 2010 and 2011 but was not voted in either year.) Disappointed, yes; but not defeated. "I've come to realize that the process is rough. It's a difficult thing to go through, but when I get to that level then I can say, 'Look what God has done for me,'" he says, optimistically. "I have to trust and believe that no matter the situation, God has to be first in how I respond and react to things. That's what I've tried to do and will continue to do." □





UPCOMING COGIC EVENTS

AIM (AUXILIARIES IN MINISTRY)

July 4- 9, 2011 – Houston, TX
Bishop J. Drew Sheard, Convention Chairman

GENERAL COUNCIL OF PASTOR'S & ELDER'S

August 22-25, 2011 – TBD
Contact Number: 708-543-5930
Supt. Isaiah Grover, Chairman, Pastor & Elders

BISHOP'S CONFERENCE

September 19-22, 2011 – Jacksonville, FL
Contact Number: 313-345-8633
Bishop John Sheard, Chairman, Board of Bishops

HOLY CONVOCATION

October 31 – November 9, 2011 – St. Louis, MO
Contact Number: 866-522-1331
Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. & The General Board

General Assembly

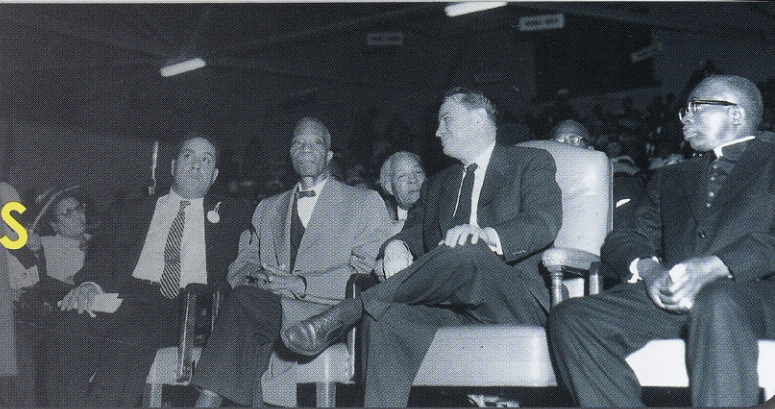
St. Louis, MO | TBA
Contact Number: 901-522-1331

NATIONAL CHURCH GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

TBA
Contact Number: 336-375-3900 x304

THE FIRST 100 YEARS

by O. Wiggins



It began in a single living room, moved to an abandoned gin house along a little creek and now has expanded to every continent around the world.

Indeed, the Church Of God In Christ has made significant strides since its inception in 1897 when Elder Charles H. Mason, Elder C.P. Jones and others brought 60 people together as charter members to form the Church of God, and subsequently the Church Of God In Christ.

Today, about six million people fill the pews of Church Of God In Christ churches, making it the nation's largest black pentecostal body and the fourth largest Protestant body in the country.

As the Church marks nearly 105 years as an incorporated body and continues into the next century, it's worth reflecting on the Church's past, it's present and it's future.

In an interview earlier this year with cogic.com, Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake said the most defining historical moment for the Church was in 1907 when Bishop Mason organized the Church Of God In Christ around the doctrine of the infilling of the Holy Spirit and the sign and seal of speaking in other tongues.

He said the Church emerging as a holiness group in 1897 was significant, but, "I think our distinctive contribution has been made in the area of advocating and propagating the doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Ghost."

And the one thing that originally made the Church different is also the one thing that ultimately led to its division.

Elder Mason returned from Los Angeles, California, after receiving the Holy Ghost, looking forward to proclaiming the New Testament doctrine and incorporating it in the Church.

But some of his fellow ministers mocked the Holy Ghost experience, which led to a separation in the body. Elder Mason was removed by the General Assembly, but he kept the incorporated name of the Church and called a meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, of all ministers who believed in the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

It became the first pentecostal General Assembly of the Church, and Elder Mason was unanimously chosen to become Bishop Mason - the General Overseer and Chief Apostle of the denomination. In that role, he was given authority to establish doctrine, organize auxiliaries and appoint overseers, according to church historians.

David Daniels, the chair of the Education Board for the Church Of God In Christ and the Henry Winters Luce Chair of World Christianity at McCormick Theological Seminary, said the governance of the Church in 1907 consisted of the senior bishop, the General Assembly and the overseers over the states.

"Even then there was the idea that all the power could not be in the hands of the bishop and overseers, but that the General Assembly, which was known as the Elders Council, served as the place for putting people on trial for ethics, infractions or setting policies for the church," he said.

After being named General Overseer, Bishop Mason dedicated 20 days - Nov. 25 through Dec. 14 - each year to fellowship and conduct business pertaining to the national organization. The annual meeting continues in November.

"Dad Mason sanctified those dates. He called it a Holy Convocation," said Bishop Nathaniel W. Wells, a member of the General Board of Bishops. "Most of the other denominations have a convention. But this was for a sacred purpose. He was calling together God's people to a holy place to remember the Holy Ghost experience. We became a holy pentecostal church."



Raynard Smith, who teaches pastoral care at New Brunswick Theological Seminary and attends Greater Harvest Evangelistic Church Of God In Christ in Newark, New Jersey, said Bishop Mason created a "sacred space for all people, but particularly African Americans" when the Church was originally formed.

"This was a time when people were being dehumanized outside the church," he said, referring to the early days of Church. "But inside, they were called saints. And not just saints, but saints of the most High God."

Bishop Blake told *cogic.com* that he sees "the church standing by its foundational teachings and doctrines" as it moves into the future.

"I see the church continuing to worship and love our God with passion and with fervor," Bishop Blake said. "And I see us pursuing the mission of the church, which is to win the lost, to edify the believer and to bring glory to our God."

Meanwhile, there are those who worry that the Church has strayed away from what Bishop Mason intended for it. And others who say the Church is grappling with holiness in the 21st century.

David Daniels said one of the biggest challenges facing the Church is "how to find a profound way of talking about holiness in the 21st century. That's our struggle."

Bishop Wells said he thinks Bishop Mason would be unhappy with what he would see of today's Church.

"What I see happening is that we are moving away from our holiness roots, becoming more charismatic," he said. "People are being saved, but their lives are not sanctified." Bishop Wells said the shift in focus has caused "so much immorality toward us. Lawsuits coming against us." Raynard Smith agreed that some would probably say Bishop Mason would be displeased with the Church and others, he said, might say Bishop Mason might not even recognize the Church of today.

There was a time when the Church was against going to the movie theater and women wearing make-up, jewelry and pants, he said.

"[The church is] not bad, it's just different," he said. "The church has evolved. The church should evolve. It's not that we have conformed to the standards of the world. It's just an evolution."

Raynard Smith said the Church leaders continue to fight for social justice, much like Bishop Mason did. For example, Bishop Blake has made public pronouncements on the debt ceiling, healthcare and Haiti just as Bishop Mason called on the Church to boycott the buses and spoke against wars.

"The problem today is that we don't have a forum to make people aware of that fight," Raynard Smith said. "Bishops need to be informed so that filters down from the jurisdictions to our local churches."

Bishop Blake told *cogic.com* in February that he expects technology to play a huge role in advancing the Church's mission.

"I see us doing most of our educational endeavors on the internet and online," he said. "I see us streaming our conventions and our church services online, impacting the world in a very targeted way."

Bishop Wells said he likes the idea of incorporating technology into the church's mission and he thinks Bishop Mason would be pleased with the Church's use of technology. Still, he said: "With all the technology, I just hope we don't lose the spirituality."

ONE

MAN'S TESTIMONY.

I don't feel no ways tired...More than just a song.

Elder Willie J. Campbell

by Rachel Irving-Mann



Denominations across the country and the globe know about Reverend William (Willie) James Campbell, Pastor of St. James Ministries C.O.G.I.C. in Chicago, Illinois. This son of C.O.G.I.C. is known as a preaching machine. He has electrified crowds at some of the largest and internationally recognized churches in the world; from TD Jakes' The Potters House to Eddie Long's New Birth Missionary Baptist

Church. However, sometimes the people who find it most challenging to accept you for you are those from home.

Pastor Campbell was gracious enough to speak to The Whole Truth. He shared wisdom and his testimony of God's grace, mercy and redeeming power in his childhood, ministry, marriage, promotion, church and beyond.

As a journalist, I saw this as any assignment; an opportunity to present the facts. And as a believer, I know that asking questions about a person's life can lead to uncovering a testimony. It seemed that presenting his testimony in any way other than giving you his exact words, would take away from the power of his story of spiritual growth, acceptance, and redemption. It includes the good, the bad, and some of the ugly, recalling the song by Reverend James Cleveland "I Don't Feel No Ways Tired." Maybe that song could have been the background of this interview. After all, musical accompaniment would be true to C.O.G.I.C. form (strike up the Hammond organ please) and I certainly believe it would have been appropriate.

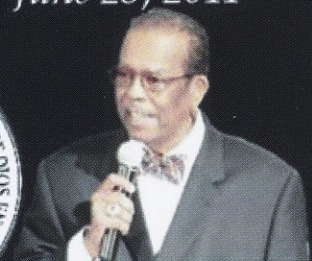


REMEMBERING



BISHOP JAMES
OGLETHORPE
PATTERSON JR.

May 28, 1935 - June 25, 2011



"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God"

Hebrews 4:9

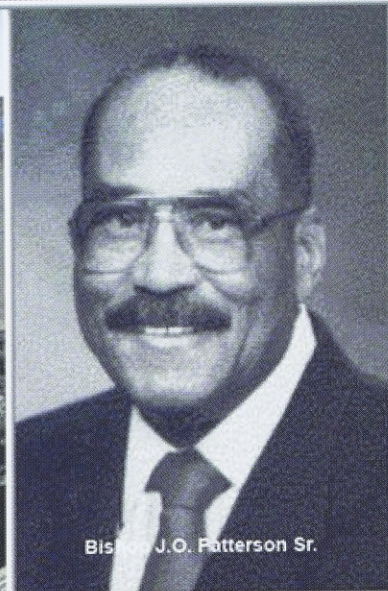


CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

Prelate, Tennessee Headquarters Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

Grandson of our Sainted Founder Bishop Charles H. Mason

Son of the first elected Presiding Bishop, Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr.



Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr.

Remembering

Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr.

*By: Elder Ron Owens
Kamilah Blackston*

A Church Of God In Christ era has come to a sudden end; however, an irreplaceable legacy will remain until the end of time. Three generations of great men continuing a family business within the COGIC church ends with a family man, a Bishop, a political leader, and a businessman all in one. With unprecedented access, the family of Bishop James Oglethorpe Patterson, Jr. granted us an opportunity, that they may share a part of their heritage and values with us. I had the privilege to share in conversation, with the widow and children of a man of legacy. As I reflect upon writing this article, in celebration on true commission of success, it dawned on me that so few families in the African American community have the privilege to be connected to legacy. Hear the candid insights, humorous expressions of love from the family of those who've had to share him with us for more than 60 years.

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Chairman of the General Assembly.

As a multi-faceted man, he served in several political positions which included one term as State Representative, two terms as State Senator, five terms as a Memphis City councilman and nearly a month as interim Mayor of Memphis. Bishop Patterson also served as a delegate to the Tennessee Constitutional Convention and as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1972, 1976 and 1980.

Amongst all his great awards and achievements, the greatest achievement he felt that he had ever accomplished was that of a COGIC Bishop. In his own words, "Life would be nothing without serving in the Lord's church, serving the Lord's people."

On June 25, 2011, Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr. was taken to the hospital after complaining about not feeling well. He later suffered kidney failure and passed around 4:30 pm. He leaves to mourn as well as celebrate his life: his widow, Lady Judith K. Patterson, his eldest son, Dr. J.O. Patterson III, M.D., his middle son Aaron L. Patterson (not present), his youngest son, Elder Charles Patterson, and his only daughter, Jennifer Patterson-Hill. They sat down with us to reminisce on the life of a giant. Pausing on June 28, 2011, in the midst of a hectic and busy schedule, planning the celebration of a husband, a father, jurisdictional prelate, pastor and statesman with overwhelming pressure, they took the time to share their loving memories of what Mayor A.C. Wharton describes, "...a man of many talents who distinguished himself in so many different fields."

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Reflecting on sharing him, Jennifer concluded, "As my pastor he was a great leader. The greatest thing I think he gave me as a pastor was the lesson of learning to pray, regardless of the situation. On good days, on bad days, whether the sun was shining or the rain was heavy, he taught me the best thing I could do was to have a conversation with God. I didn't have to be on my knees or in church; God is my spiritual Father and I could talk to Him anytime, anywhere, any place."

Keeping the interview with the family brief, so that they could be at peace, Lady Patterson closed saying, "He was a hero, a trailblazer. He was a favored son, a calming voice of peace and reasoning. God used Bishop Patterson for spiritual leadership."

Many other people expressed their condolences and personal thoughts on the late Bishop Patterson. Bishop Brandon B. Porter of the Tennessee Central Jurisdiction said of the Bishop that he represented the church and the community well. "In COGIC, he will be sorely missed. He left foundation and dignity to the General Assembly and we trusted his opinions and decisions." Bishop Porter also shared a fond memory of Bishop Patterson. "Recently, we were having dinner and we had a conversation about his bowtie. I figured these days, people were really tying their bowties and he said to me, 'Well. Let me tell you something. I didn't tie this. This is a clip-on!' and we both fell out in laughter. Ha Ha." Dr. David Hall of the Tennessee Headquarters Jurisdiction said of the Bishop, "His presence in the life of COGIC was two-fold. He brought years of experience and was instrumental in blending the Gospel with Social Outreach." Last but not least, General Board Member Sedgwick Daniels leaves us with, "Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr. and the Patterson tradition are phenomenal in their leadership, sacrifice, and stewardship. He has provided us with the prototype for generations to come."

Losing a family member, mentor, or church leader is never an easy thing to cope with. However, the Patterson family and COGIC, Inc. can rest assured that a distinguished and honorable man has lived a meaningful life of ministry and service to God and others and is in his final resting place with the Almighty Heavenly Father. Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake said, "Bishop J.O. Patterson was a wise and faithful Chairman who served in one of the highest offices of the Church Of God In Christ. The General Assembly of the church is the doctrine-expressing body of the church, and Bishop Patterson led that entity effectively and with vision. He will be greatly missed. We offer our sincere prayers to his wife, family and the Pentecostal Temple congregation."

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Remembering Bishop J.O. Patterson

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Remembrance

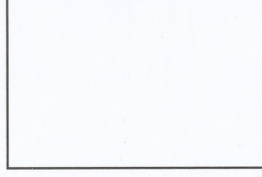
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legacy. "It's a good feeling. Bishop Patterson instilled in us a sense of right, a sense of responsibility. My father encouraged us to stand up for what we believed in and what he knew was spiritually, politically and morally correct."

Later in the interview, Jennifer Patterson-Hill had a funny moment with her older brothers as they playfully disagreed on Jennifer's relationship with her father. Jennifer described how it was to be daddy's little girl. "At times difficult but always proud. Humbling. He never treated me any different than the boys. He wanted me to be self-sufficient and a strong woman. He made me do everything the boys had to do. I had to rake leaves, wash the car, and take out the trash. He still showed his sensitive side whenever he had the opportunity." Jennifer remained firm on her recollection of her role even though her brothers "begged to differ" and said she was special and only took out the trash once.

Dr. Patterson said of Bishop Patterson, "He was my father and I had the joy to be known as his son. As a teenager I thought it was a burden to be the son and the grandson of such prominent individuals in the community. As I became an adult, I saw it as a privilege, a special privilege to just be known as his son and to carry his name. It means a lot."

Elder Patterson added on to his brother's saying, "I had the privilege of knowing him as a father who was concerned and active in the lives of his children and who taught us how to be men, honorable and respectable men. I had the privilege of knowing him as a leader and an administrator in my assisting him in church and in his business. He taught me from a religious perspective as a minister to value and care for God's people. That ministry was and is not a game but it is a service and a calling by God. I know him as a praying man. He taught us to seek God and His will. I've known him as one of the greatest men I've ever encountered, if not the greatest."

Reflecting on sharing him, Jennifer concluded, "As my pastor he was a great leader. The greatest thing I think he gave me as a pastor was the lesson of learning to pray, regardless of the situation. On good days, on bad days, whether the sun was shining or the rain was heavy, he taught me the best thing I could do was to have a conversation with God. I didn't have to be on my knees or in church; God is my spiritual Father and I could talk to Him anytime, anywhere, any place."

Keeping the interview with the family brief, so that they could be at peace, Lady Patterson closed saying, "He was a hero, a trailblazer. He was a favored son, a calming voice of peace and reasoning. God used Bishop Patterson for spiritual leadership."

Many other people expressed their condolences and personal thoughts on the late Bishop Patterson. Bishop Brandon B. Porter of the Tennessee Central Jurisdiction said of the Bishop that he represented the church and the community well. "In COGIC, he will be sorely missed. He left foundation and dignity to the General Assembly and we trusted his opinions and decisions." Bishop Porter also shared a fond memory of Bishop Patterson. "Recently, we were having dinner and we had a conversation about his bowtie. I figured these days, people were really tying their bowties and he said to me, 'Well. Let me tell you something. I didn't tie this. This is a clip-on!' and we both fell out in laughter. Ha Ha." Dr. David Hall of the Tennessee Headquarters Jurisdiction said of the Bishop, "His presence in the life of COGIC was two-fold. He brought years of experience and was instrumental in blending the Gospel with Social Outreach." Last but not least, General Board Member Sedgwick Daniels leaves us with, "Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr. and the Patterson tradition are phenomenal in their leadership, sacrifice, and stewardship. He has provided us with the prototype for generations to come."

Losing a family member, mentor, or church leader is never an easy thing to cope with. However, the Patterson family and COGIC, Inc. can rest assured that a distinguished and honorable man has lived a meaningful life of ministry and service to God and others and is in his final resting place with the Almighty Heavenly Father. Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake said, "Bishop J.O. Patterson was a wise and faithful Chairman who served in one of the highest offices of the Church Of God In Christ. The General Assembly of the church is the doctrine-expressing body of the church, and Bishop Patterson led that entity effectively and with vision. He will be greatly missed. We offer our sincere prayers to his wife, family and the Pentecostal Temple congregation."

Bishop J.O. Patterson has accomplished so much, that a book could be written about his life and the legacy he leaves behind. Lady Patterson thinks that book should be called, "J.O.P. The Man of Faith and Favor."



(L to R) Elder Charles Harrison Mason Patterson, Lady Judith Patterson, Jennifer Patterson-Hill, Dr. J.O. Patterson, III, M.D.; Not Shown: Aaron Patterson, son.



(L to R) Tyren Patterson, LaShaundra Patterson, Kelly Rose Patterson, Elder Charles Harrison Patterson. (Front) Charles Harrison Mason Patterson, Jr.



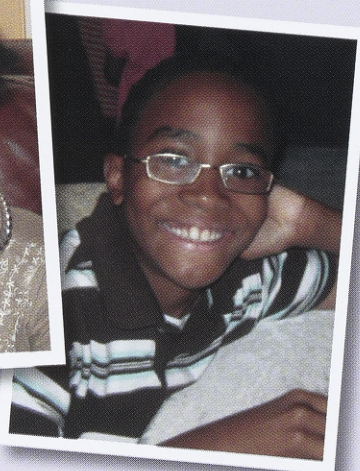
Bishop was an Avid Steelers Fan!



(Back: L to R) Uncle Steve Wigley, Ralph Hill, Jennifer Patterson-Hill, Elder Charles Harrison Mason Patterson.
(Front: L to R) LaShaundra Patterson, Tyren Patterson, Charles Harrison Mason Patterson, Jr., Lady Judith Patterson, Kelly Rose Patterson.



Lady Patterson's daughter, Tiffany Dotson



Charles Harrison Mason Patterson, Jr.



(L to R) Uncle Steve Wigley, Elder Charles Harrison Mason Patterson, Elder Brandon Washington, Dr. J.O. Patterson, III, M.D.

WHOLE TRUTH: 40 years ago, at age 21, you became pastor of St. James Ministries C.O.G.I.C. after your father and former pastor, Bishop Jesse Campbell, was called home to be with the Lord. Explain the challenges of becoming a pastor at such a young age.

Willie Campbell: Number one was acceptance. People had such a hard time accepting a pastor that was so young back then with no experience. The only experience I had was being a minister with my father. At that time ... that was my greatest challenge because they didn't want to hear what I had to say. So I had to keep on preaching. At that young tender age I was very vulnerable, but I had my mother. My mother (Agnes Marie Campbell) had a prayer life and was a prayer warrior. Her father was a pastor, her brother was a pastor. So I had pastors and preachers on both sides of the family. My mother's side is the Goodwin side and my father's side is the Campbell side. I didn't know anything else but C.O.G.I.C. As I got older and matured, I started to branch out to Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, all of the others and I learned quite a bit. I have never left or forgot my roots, which is C.O.G.I.C.

WHOLE TRUTH: How did you gain acceptance at your church?

W. J. C.: The thing that finally got me over with them was the preaching. God blessed me to give them a word that was edifying as well as uplifting, developing them to spiritual maturity along with myself.

WHOLE TRUTH: Tell me about your early days in C.O.G.I.C. Did you see signs at an early age that you were going to become a preacher and evangelist?

Willie Campbell: No not at the time because I didn't want any part of it. I really wanted to be out there partying, drinking, and doing my thing. Before my father passed, the Lord saved me, delivered me from those types of



The late Elder & Mrs. Willie James Campbell Sr.

vices ... and refocused my mentality to start thinking about God. I learned something when my father passed, and that was how to depend on God and I gained a relationship with God through my prayer life. I had to learn how to pray because if I hadn't prayed, I just don't think I would have made it. In my prayer life, I learned how to talk to God and how to trust him. I would just pour my heart out to God. What a lot of people don't know is there's no formula to prayer. You've got to talk to God and tell Him right where you're coming from. And I think He honors that more so than a made-up prayer.

WHOLE TRUTH: For young ministers that are taking leadership roles in ministry, acceptance is always an issue. Especially since some of the people they are leading are older than them. What advice would you give a young minister who is taking over any type of ministry?

Willie Campbell: Be sincere about your relationship with God. Never allow your flesh to rule you. You have to be able to submit to divine leadership that only comes from God. A lot of people will advise you, but a lot of people will ill-advise you. As my late uncle would say, "You've got to learn how to eat the

fish and spit out the bones." If you don't spit out the bones, you will gag, choke and you will die spiritually. You can go in with programs and vision. But along with programs and vision, you must have a sincere relationship with God.

WHOLE TRUTH: What does preaching and outreach mean to you?

Willie Campbell: I think most people have a misconception about evangelism. Evangelism is not just preaching. Preaching is a part of evangelism, but evangelism is a process that people must be taught. In other words, living saved is a process. The Bible says (1Peter 2:2), "As newborn babes, desiring the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." You can't give people meat if they don't have spiritual teeth. They can't gum the meat and swallow it because they'll choke. I think a lot that has happened in the past is that we've brought [people] in and told them they had to live saved and gave them meat, but they needed milk. They have to be taught as newborn babes. I don't care how old they are, they are still babies. They have to be taught the process of salvation.

WHOLE TRUTH: What is one of the biggest problems in the church when it comes to evangelism?

Willie Campbell: I think one of the biggest problems in the church is that we don't have a process of closing the back door. We bring them in the front door, but they've got the back door, the side door, they find an exit or they make an exit. That's because you've taught them about holiness, but you didn't teach them how to live holy. How do I learn to live holy? How do I learn to live saved? I've got to go through that process, resist temptation, and overcome my own faults. Some people get saved, they give up everything and they go for it right then. But then there are some people that get saved and they have a hard time. They have to be taught that they can make it. We must teach people the process of salvation.

WHOLE TRUTH: After learning the process, what's next?

Willie Campbell: When they learn the process, they begin to grow and develop. Teach them how to pray, the process of living saved, the process of overcoming, and before you know it you've got mature Christians who've gone through the process so that they can help others. That's how the church grows. Pastor Campbell was appointed President of the C.O.G.I.C. Mission and Evangelism Department by Presiding Bishop Blake in 2009. As with all appointments by the Presiding Bishop, Pastor Campbell's appointment is for four years and can be renewed by the Presiding Bishop at his discretion.

WHOLE TRUTH: What was the state of the department when you first entered the position?

Willie Campbell: I can't criticize it because people work with what they have. But our Presiding Bishop has given us a sense of direction and told us that this is what he wants out of us, which gives us a mandate. So we've got to adhere to his vision.

WHOLE TRUTH: Do you have a record of how many evangelists are part of the Department?

Willie Campbell: That is something that we have not done [in the past], but now I'm doing it. We are [working on]

keeping a record of everyone that calls themselves an evangelist and part of this national department.

WHOLE TRUTH: This will bring more accountability, correct?

Willie Campbell: Yes, this will bring accountability to everyone that calls themselves an evangelist ... You've got to be accountable for your identity. If you say that you are an evangelist, what are you doing? I've got to see some work. I want you to come back with some reports.

WHOLE TRUTH: Society has drastically changed over the years. The issues addressed historically by evangelism (i.e. poverty, drug abuse, child abuse, prostitution, alcoholism, domestic abuse, etc.) have now grown into epidemics due to the economic and moral decline in our country. How do we take our country back to Christ in the midst of such hardships?

Willie Campbell: The process, it has got to be the process. We've got to get to the people and let them know that Christ is the answer. How do we let them know that? After we preach to them, we've got to show them by precept and example. We've got to teach people how to pray and the process of evangelism. It is our job to get people off the street [from] their own environment.

WHOLE TRUTH: But how do you get people to change and not lose their interest in salvation and the church?

Willie Campbell: We go in and we start saying "don't." That's the wrong approach. When you keep telling people "don't," they will "do" just to be rebellious. The Bible says (Jeremiah 31:3), "...therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee." You can get people in church and say "don't do this, don't do that" and you tell them so many "don'ts" until you scare them off. You've got to let them know, "Look, I love you. I know you're an alcoholic. I know you're a drug addict. I know you're a prostitute, but let me show you a better way."

Every evangelist [and] every person who is saved has got to show people the love of Christ.

WHOLE TRUTH: The Department also has to face newer issues that have been largely overlooked or only partially addresses by the National Church (C.O.G.I.C.). Issues such as child pornography, homosexuality, child trafficking and the like, are lesser-known issues that are plaguing the people. What is the Department's plan to prepare against and address these issues?

Willie Campbell: First of all, a prayer life. It is a known fact that evangelists, ministers, missionaries and a lot of people approach situations and they don't have a prayer life. If you don't pray before you enter into a situation, you won't survive. How do I get a guy who is gay ... out of his situation when he is enjoying it? How do I stop a drug addict from taking his drugs when he enjoys himself? How do I stop the alcoholic from drinking? It's pleasure to him. He says, "Hey, I know church people who drink, so why would you bother me? I know church people who do drugs. I know church people who are gay." Yes, but there's a difference between a church person and a saved individual. When you're saved, you look to please God and not your flesh. The only thing that will sustain you and change you is an anointed prayer life. If I'm going to pray for somebody, I can't approach them unless I'm covered in the blood. That will give me the ability to step into an adversarial situation and bring deliverance to the people.

WHOLE TRUTH: What about the local church?

Willie Campbell: The church has to be prayed up, ready to go into spiritual warfare against all kinds of demonic forces. Demons are real. And one of the things that are happening now is that many churches are becoming Ichabod, which is without the presence of the Lord. We've got programs, we've



got all kinds of things going on, but there is no anointing. It is the anointing that destroys the yokes.

WHOLE TRUTH: But shouldn't preaching about hell, fire and brimstone be enough?

Willie Campbell: The day of people being hell-scared is over. They look at you when you talk about hell and they say, "Ok, I'm going through hell now." But if I pray and believe God, then something has got to happen to them. The Bible says the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

WHOLE TRUTH: Our government believes the prisons system should change people? What do you believe?

Willie Campbell: Going to prison does not stop [people], because prison is only a housing place. The only thing that's going to get [people] away from the vices they are involved in is an anointing. The yoke has got to be destroyed. Otherwise they get older ... they past that spirit on. It's spiritual warfare.

WHOLE TRUTH: Explain Spiritual Warfare.

Willie Campbell: Nowadays [spiritual warfare] is more prevalent than ever. We've got to go into warfare. You cannot make a person stop what they're doing. It's going to take the power of God to move them from where they are to where they should be.

WHOLE TRUTH: The National Church (C.O.G.I.C.) has embarked on a campaign to close the digital divide in ministry and in the community. What would you like to see happen in the Department to support this effort?

Willie Campbell: Every person that calls themselves an evangelist [should] go through classes, online and physical. Every meeting we have must have classes. We cannot send [an] unprepared evangelist in the field dealing with demonic forces. You've got to be prepared to run into some demons that will look at you, make fun

of you, dance in your service, shout, fall out on the floor and get up and have never been delivered ... they are still the same. We've got to possess what we profess. God is real and I don't believe God has brought us this far to make a mockery out of the foundation of the Church of God in Christ.

WHOLE TRUTH: How has life at the altar changed?

Willie Campbell: When I got saved, they put me on the altar and tarried around me ... Those folks stayed on me and those of us who went through that process. We couldn't get off the altar until we believed what we were tarrying for. We don't do much of this now. We don't put people on the altar and work with them. We can attract any kind of people ... but they still have to go through the process of deliverance.

WHOLE TRUTH: What's your take on altar calls/prayer lines?

Willie Campbell: I believe in the spirit of discernment. I believe the Lord can give us, in any given service, how to discern when something is wrong. We don't need to call people out or call their names. We can go into prayer and the spirit of God can move without laying hands on them ... they can be delivered right in their seat. Don't get me wrong, we can still call a prayer line, but I believe that the anointing can be so strong that people that won't come to the prayer line can be delivered right where they are sitting.

WHOLE TRUTH: Explain your process of rebuilding after a divorce from your first wife and how the process strengthened you as a believer and minister?

Willie Campbell: It has been quite a challenge. Number one, you are dealing with people who will never understand divorce. You have to deal with situations where there are people that not only will never understand, but [also] will never accept you as being divorced. But that can't stop you when you know that God is with you. You go through changes, give up some things, and go through some things. I had to go through, but what I went through made



me better and stronger. I went through some depression, but I got through it.

I love Him, I appreciate His forgiveness, and I appreciate His love for me. And I appreciate the wife that I have now who loves me for me ... and we just move on. You run into people who don't like you, who don't accept you. You speak to them and you smile. You cannot afford to allow what you go through to [make you] bitter and resentful. Whatever you've been through has got to be a stepping-stone to where God is taking you.

God was kind to me. Bishop Blake was kind to me. He didn't hold me hostage with my past. He gave me a job. People in positions have to recognize your capabilities and love God and love you enough to say, "That's over, let's move on." And that's deep.

WHOLE TRUTH: How do you approach people who've made mistakes and minister to them?

Willie Campbell: People go through changes, but you can't hold people hostage for their mistakes. As long as there is breath in your body, you are subject to making mistakes and I can't hold you hostage or kill you for





your mistakes. You make mistakes, but you can't let those mistakes hold you hostage. As long as you keep thinking about those mistakes and bringing them up, they'll hold you hostage and stunt your growth. God will always give you the power and victory to overcome it.

WHOLE TRUTH: You and First Lady Lori Campbell have been married and serving together in ministry for 10 years. The Bible says (Proverbs 18:22), "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord." What are the benefits to having a praying and supportive wife?

Willie Campbell: One of my greatest wins was my wife. I would sit down and look like I was getting depressed and she would say, "Look you can't sit down here being depressed. You've got to get yourself together because God is with you. Get up!" Sometimes I would sit way in the back, during convocation, and my wife said "Are you ashamed of me?" I said, "No!" Then she said, "Why are you sitting in the back? Would you sit in the back if I wasn't with you?" I said, "Well, yeah I would." The she said, "Well, don't do it while you're

with me ... let's go to the front. God has done something for you. Don't sit back here like you're ashamed." That shocked me and I said, "Whoa ... that's right! It's over. God has forgiven me, let me move up. And God did it for me." Today, St. James Ministries C.O.G.I.C., affectionately known as "the Judah Complex," serves as a full-service center for the ministry of the total man (i.e. mind, body, and spirit). The complex is located at 11750 S Lowe Avenue, Chicago, IL and sits on an acre lot with multiple buildings and two parking facilities. It includes a 1500-seat auditorium, the Agnes Marie Campbell fellowship hall with stage and production equipment, a state-of-the-art kitchen, administration building, education building, and a women's shelter. The ministry is also working on plans to add a charter school to the facility.

WHOLE TRUTH: As for your church, what is the next step? How do you see St. James Ministries C.O.G.I.C. in the future?

Willie Campbell: We are growing! My wife is working with me and I put her over a committee that I call the Planning and Programming Committee. [The

committee] includes 15 auxiliaries and their job is to take the pastor's vision for programs and put it to fruition. She is a principal of a school and she has a lot of knowledge in education and administration. There are some things that have to be done straight from me, but it's good to have a wife that works by your side, who can get along with people, and gets things done. I wouldn't dare hold her back.

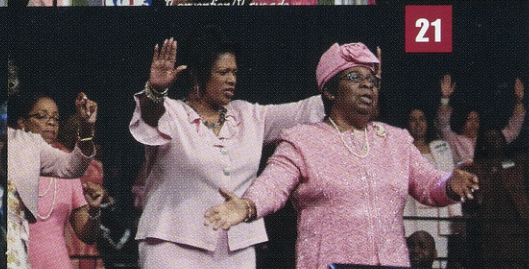
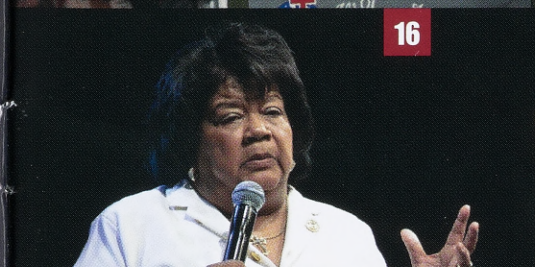
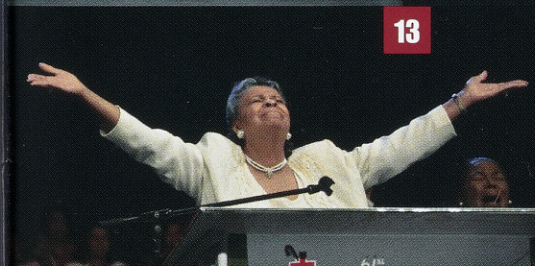
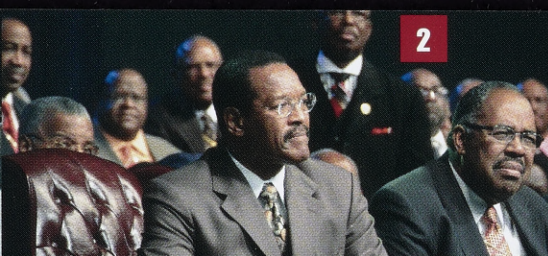
WHOLE TRUTH: How do you see C.O.G.I.C. today and what are your hopes for C.O.G.I.C. in the future?

Willie Campbell: I believe from the depths of my heart that C.O.G.I.C. is still moving forward. We must never forget our foundation. When the foundation is solid, you can build a skyscraper. We've got a spiritually sound foundation. And I see nothing but better in the future. This Evangelism Department is going to be the greatest and best in the world.



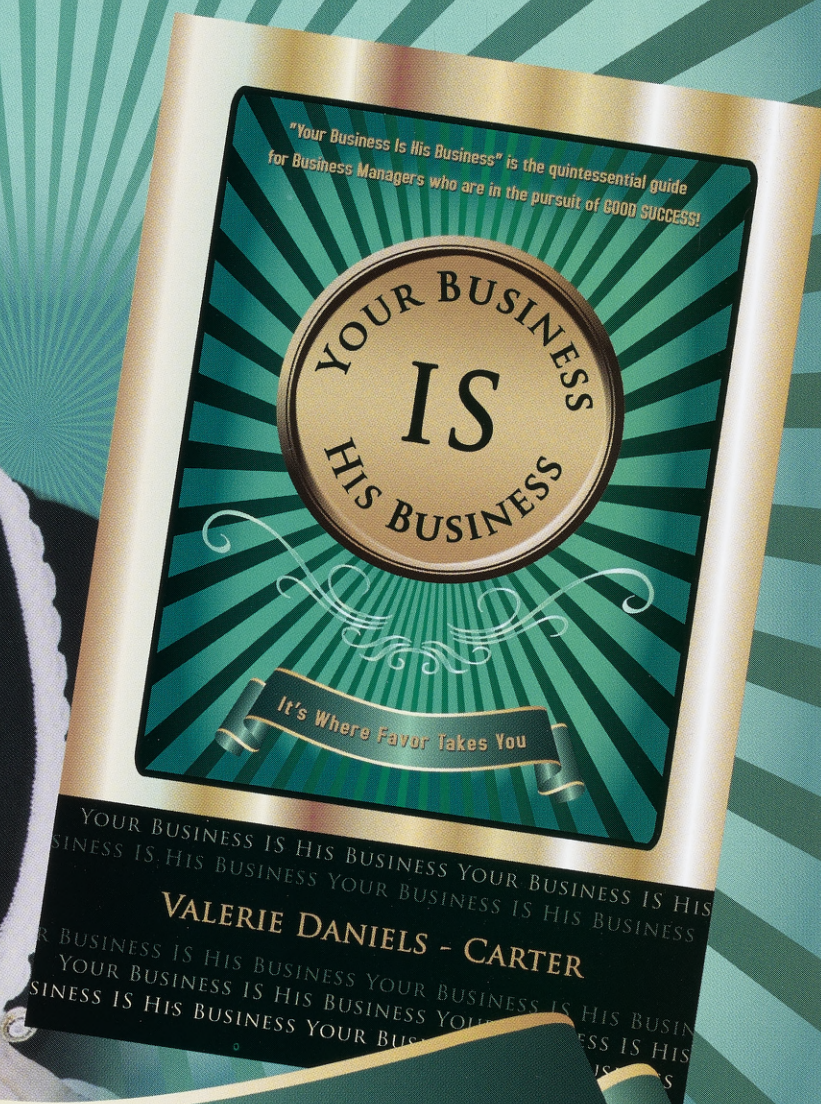
1. Mother Willie Mae Rivers
2. Bishop Charles Blake and Bishop Jerry Macklin
3. Pastor George Davis
4. Dr. Herdleen Russell
5. Dr. Juliette White
6. Evangelist Gayle Darden
7. Lady Mae Blake and Mother Willie Mae Rivers
8. Lady Mae L. Blake
9. Mother Brooks, Mother Rivers and Lady Blake
10. Mother Carolyn Galbraith
11. Mother Dian Bogan, Mother Plive Brown and Mother Mary Tucker
12. Mother Elizabeth Crooms and Mother Vanessa
13. Mother Francis Kelly
14. Mother Louise Patterson
15. Mother Lucille Spann
16. Mother Luvonia Whittley
17. Mother Pearl Paige and Dr. Barbara McCoo Lewis
18. Mother Romanatha Stallworth
19. Mother Ruth Pryor
20. Mother Ruth Pryor, Bishop Darryl Hines
21. Mother Willie Mae Rivers and Mother Dian Bogan
22. Bishops, Winbush, Haynes, Houston, Bryant and Wells
23. Bishop Darryl Hines and Elder Lawrence Blake





61st Annual International
Women's Convention

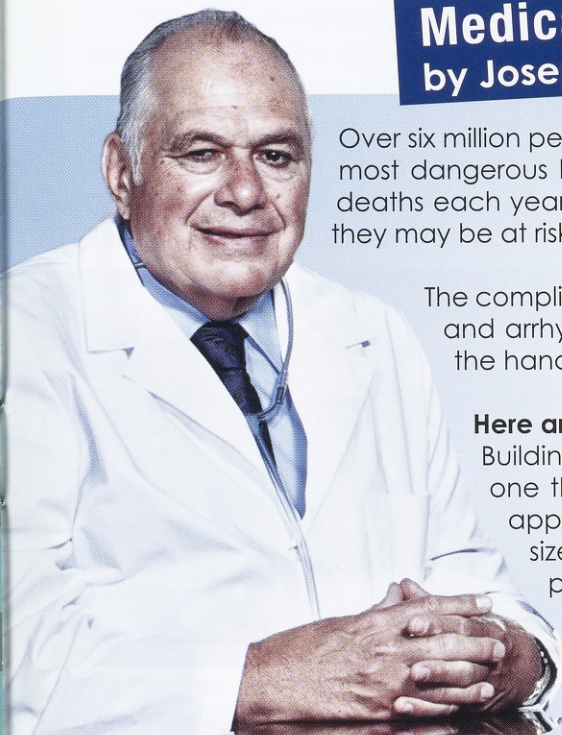
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Medical Moment by Joseph Colella, MD



Over six million people nation-wide have Diabetes but are undiagnosed, making it one of the most dangerous but relatively undetected diseases in the country. Diabetes causes more deaths each year than breast cancer and AIDS combined. Millions more have no idea that they may be at risk for developing Diabetes later in life, through genetics and lifestyle factors.

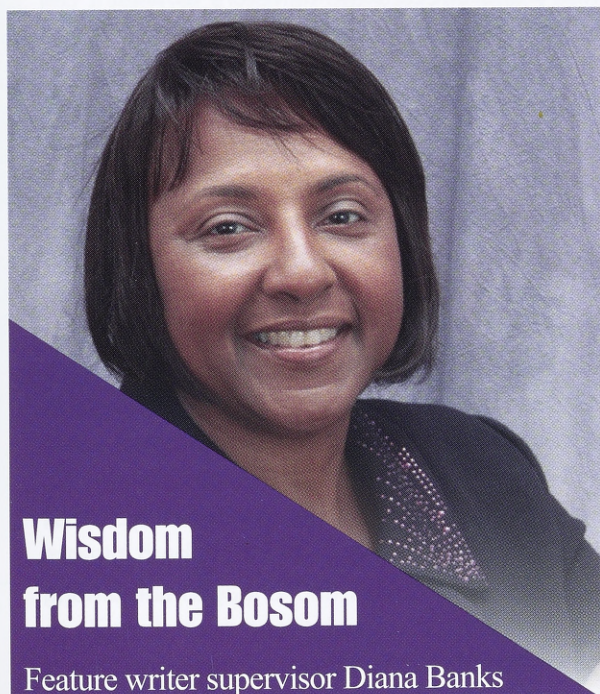
The complications of Diabetes include poor vision or blindness, coronary artery disease and arrhythmias, kidney failure, and poor circulation with numbness and tingling in the hands and feet, that may lead to unsuspected injury.

Here are some helpful hints for preventive care:

Building exercise into your daily routine helps lower your risk level or maintain one that is already low. Portion sizes have grown in recent years. To judge the appropriate amount of food for a meal, use your hand to measure portion sizes. **Measure** and Test your body's important parameters and check blood pressure regularly.

Resources: "Diabetes Care" and the American Diabetes Association

For more information about Diabetic care visit www.IDWC.com



Wisdom from the Bosom

Feature writer supervisor Diana Banks

Mentoring: THE BEST KEPT SECRET

I. EVERYONE HAS POTENTIAL

Have you ever looked at a house that needs lots of work and been able to see the potential in that house? That's just how Jesus looks at us. He can see our potential, what we can become. In I John 3:2, we read, "Yes, dear friends, we are already God's children, and we can't imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do know that when he comes we will be like him." You see, before we accept Christ as our Savior, we look a lot like a house in need of repair--dirty, worn and broken down. But God can see the potential in us. After we are saved, Jesus begins to rebuild our lives from the inside out. When Jesus Christ resides in our hearts, our old house becomes a new home. (II Corth. 5:17) So, the next time you see a person who looks like he/she has potential, remind them that being in Jesus Christ makes the difference!

II. FIRST IMPRESSIONS

First impressions are really important. What are the first impressions people get when they meet you? Do they see a life that exemplifies Jesus Christ? Before people even get to know you are a Christian they form an impression about you based on your attitude. Proverbs 15:30 says a cheerful look brings joy to the heart and good news (NIV). Learn to smile, for a smile is contagious. When you start smiling at people they smile back and this invites them to learn more about you and your God! Allow your joy to overflow to others. Smile at someone today and allow God to touch that person through you.

III. ORDINARY PEOPLE

How many times have you heard the saying God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things? We can see all through scripture how God uses ordinary people to do the extraordinary. For example: Moses, a runaway slave, was used by God to lead his people out of slavery; and Mary a simple peasant girl became the mother of Jesus. What we see is God using ordinary people who were willing to be obedient to His call to do great things. Are you obedient to the call of Christ? If so, know that you too can be used to do extraordinary things for God. Remember to let go of your own ambitions and allow God to fill you with His power. Only then can ordinary become extraordinary.

IV. DO YOU KNOW YOUR POTENTIAL

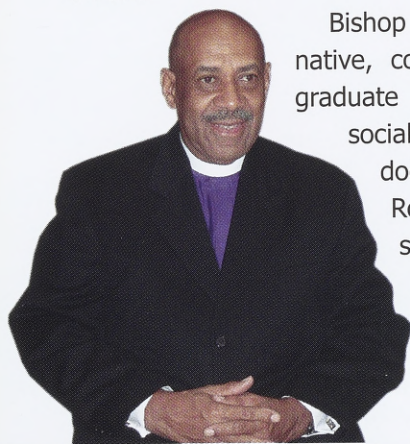
What is the meaning of potential? It is something worthwhile becoming or the ability to be better than your current state. Do you really know your potential? Sadly enough, most people live a lifetime not fully understanding their potential. However, Christians have a greater opportunity of becoming that which they believe is possible for Mark 9:23 states all things are possible to them that believe. What you believe about yourself today can positively impact your tomorrow. Having potential allows you to dream of unlimited possibilities. What you believe is impossible becomes impossible, but what you believe is possible becomes your potential to accomplish just that. Dare to dream of the unlimited possibilities that only God can give. See and believe that you can do all things through Christ (Philp. 4:13) and you will reach your potential.

PASTORS CORNER

by Kamilah Blackston and Takee Jobe

TWO Men / TWO Ministries / ONE Common Thread

The common thread that unites growing ministries is a righteous Shepherd who understands their calling and is able to operate as a humble servant of God. In turn, a unifying bond of spirituality and honesty will serve as the foundation for a strong ministry. After interviewing Bishop Jerry Maynard and Pastor Carl A. Pierce, what I've found is there is no secret or template for a successful ministry; but it seems these two have mastered an art.



Bishop Jerry Maynard

Bishop Jerry Maynard, an Indiana native, completed graduate and post graduate studies in psychology and social sciences at Indiana and the doctorates division of Cross Roads Bible College. He has served as Director of the Muncie Indiana Human Rights Commission from 1967- 1970, a member of the Indiana and United States Civil Rights Commission from 1970-1983. He is also the

recipient of the highest civilian award of the state of Indiana, "Sagamore of the Wabash." Bishop Maynard has pastored at Cathedral of Praise in Nashville Tennessee for 17 years.



Pastor Carl A. Pierce Sr.

Pastor Carl A. Pierce, a native Texan is the Senior Pastor of Carter Memorial Church of God in Christ in Baltimore, MD. Pastor Pierce graduated from Tyler Junior College and the University of Houston. He formally accepted his ministerial calling to preach the Gospel in 1984; was introduced and licensed in 1986, and was ordained in 1989.

Two men and servants of God, both of who have been pastoring for a number of years within their current congregations, agree on the things that make a great church. Being ministry minded, meeting physical and spiritual needs, as well as representing the Lord and touching lives all go hand in hand into building a church to its full potential. Pastor Pierce said, "...A great ministry encompasses a holistic approach



Cathedral of Praise

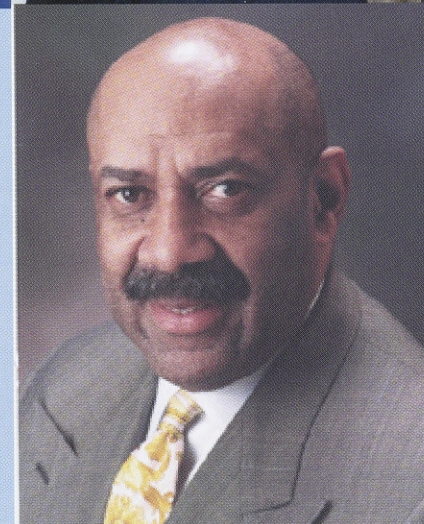
towards ministry and affected the ministers to what I call the trichotomy of man: that is mind, body, and spirit. And of course I take often to the congregation at Carter that people will not come to our church if we cannot satisfy or meet needs... The great churches expand their desire for the holistic betterment of man."

Though the two agree on ministry and the components of a great and successful church, their methods of keeping worshippers enthused week after week are very different; however, effective. Pastor Pierce describes something he uses called "the huddle experience". By drawing a comparison between a huddle in a football game, he explains that people who come to watch the game get excited when the team comes out of the huddle and runs the plays. He continues on to explain that it is his responsibility to call good shots in the huddle along with other team players in the congregation. Delegation and engagement among everyone promotes the team concept and allows people to get things accomplished so that more and more worshippers come to give praise each and every week. Bishop Maynard on the other hand has developed another way of reaching out to people to keep them engaged throughout the week. "We have a CDC, Community Development Corporation, with different programs in it, as well as those 85 auxiliaries that I've talked about earlier and I try to get them involved in those. And then if they don't want to get involved in those, then I tell them to look around themselves, in their neighborhood, on their job, or wherever they may be and exercise the principals of the Lord in trying to reach other people."

Those 85 auxiliaries play a large part in the mission and ministry of the Cathedral of Praise. Bishop Maynard describes the mission of the church as to "efficaciously work towards promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that lives of people within the community that we serve, either directly or indirectly will come to Christ and have their lives enhanced." Community service is a large part of the Cathedral of Praise ministry as a whole to serve people and to change their lives.

Later in the interview, Bishop Maynard and Pastor Pierce expressed three things that they believe would help another pastor in the growth of their ministry. "I think it's important to take the limit of God, don't be afraid of your own success, yet know how to properly appropriate it. Again, be in love with God and his people. Don't try to duplicate another's ministry, another ministry success; I think that's very important, unless you've been directed to do so by God." Pastor Pierce continues, "Understand that what works for another ministry may not work for you. In other words don't embrace a vision that God has not given. I think that any individual that is going to be successful in ministry, you have to have an attentive ear to hear direction from God." Bishop Maynard's opinion on the things he believes would help any pastor in the growth of his/her ministry is, "One, would be able to operate within the call of God for their lives and although they have been called to pastor, they need to know what specifically has God called them to because every pastor, I believe, has a call and if he operates within that call he will be blessed. Secondly, I believe that never lose focus of the vision that God has given to you. Don't make comparative analyses seeing what others are doing in their church and then you try to be like them. And lastly, make sure that you understand what humility is all about, a humble life is one that God can use and God will bring you forth and allow you and your ministry to have an impact among the lives of others and your church will grow and walk in humility."

God has given Pastor Pierce insight on the ways in which He wants his ministry to be led. His ministry is very successful; however, he did not get to success overnight. He overcame many obstacles and milestones in his life that has helped to place him in the position that he is in today, "I have had the wonderful opportunity to experience church growth at Carter. The past few years has been a rewarding experience, in addition we have been successful in acquiring major property within the vicinity of our current facility for expanding, those are just major milestones in my life. Another milestone that may be insignificant to many, I am what would be considered a transitional pastor in that I was not the founder of the church, I pastored, but throughout the ten years of my ministry we have not had



division, it just has been a place of continued growth and I bless God for that. And of course, I'm in the process now of painting my first book and I look forward to completing that. It's been talked about there are at least four books on the inside of me, I'm just trying to bring one out at a time. I look forward, later in the year, to complete a book that I am currently working on."

Bishop Maynard has also had many milestones and turning points in his career, one of which he knew was the moment that his church was well on its way to phenomenal church status. He says, "The turning point of our church came in 1996, when we had a tent revival in the parking lot of our church and in that tent revival many souls were saved and people were healed and delivered, the impact of our church was so great that our people went out into the community witnessing to people concerning what God was doing within our ministry. In that year alone, over 1200 people came to praise and join our church and that was just incredible. I have not experienced anything like that since."

Bishop Jerry Maynard and Pastor Carl A. Pierce both continue to encourage others, lead successful ministries, as well as develop bonds and relationships with surrounding communities. Pastor Pierce's last words were, "To be a pastor, a minister out of the COGIC Church, I believe is an

awesome calling. I believe whole-heartedly in the doctrine, I believe in what we represent. I believe in the tenants of our faith, and to claim the truth of our faith, I believe in the ministry, a place in the ministry of an organization. That is in my opinion, second to none, that is quite an experience to be proud of and to relish as part of the ministry of our great church."

"Jabez cried out to the God of Israel. 'Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.' And God granted his request." 1 Chronicles 4:10

Q. What is the common thread that identifies COGIC around the world?

(Pastor Pierce) It's deep rooted Pentecostalism in traditions that I pray that we never lose and never cease to express. Its hand-clapping, its foot-stomping, its music that identifies us. When we as a body come together and don't express these elements, we cease to be COGIC.

(Bishop Maynard) The components of our church's worship experience comes from a heritage of rendering enthusiastic praise that celebrates the gift of Jesus Christ and the receiving of the keeper, the Holy Ghost. Bishop C.H. Mason believed that those were the elements of why we convened.

Q. How would you believe that Bishop Mason would want all of the thousands of worshippers across the country to leave a COGIC worship service?

(Pastor Pierce) Refreshed and engaged by the power of the Holy Ghost.

(Bishop Maynard) I would agree.

Q. What are three things that every pastor should preach about?

(Pastor Pierce) Jesus, him being crucified, salvation and the healing of mind body and spirit.

(Bishop Maynard) Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection and the empowerment of His Holy Spirit. Those things are the element for substantive messages that answer all situations. Your topic doesn't have to be Jesus being crucified; but, because he was crucified, you can preach that you can overcome anything.



New Home of the Carter Memorial Church.

Q. What should a pastor want the community to think about his church?

(Pastor Pierce) That the church pastor's every corner in its vicinity.

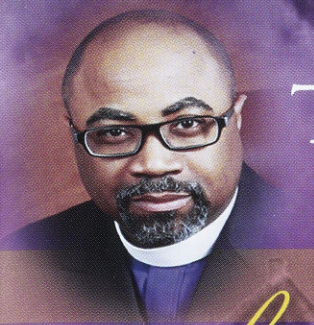
(Bishop Maynard) That you would want the people in the community to see your church as a place of love, shelter, and commitment to the principals of Jesus Christ.

Q. How is engaging your church in the national and local jurisdiction relevant?

(Bishop Maynard) Every congregation needs to feel that it is a part of a larger vision and connected to a larger entity for support. Every pastor needs to expose themselves to a mechanism of accountability. (When people see you are held accountable, they will allow you as pastor to hold them accountable.)

Q. What would you say to a pastor who is about to give up?

(Bishop Maynard) Before you give up, go back to your original calling, and then to the originator of that calling; therein, you'll find the strength and the refreshing to run the race. A continual conversation with God will always lead to continued success. A lack of conversation with God will always lead to continued failure.



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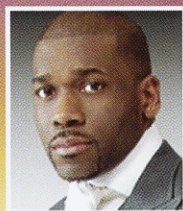
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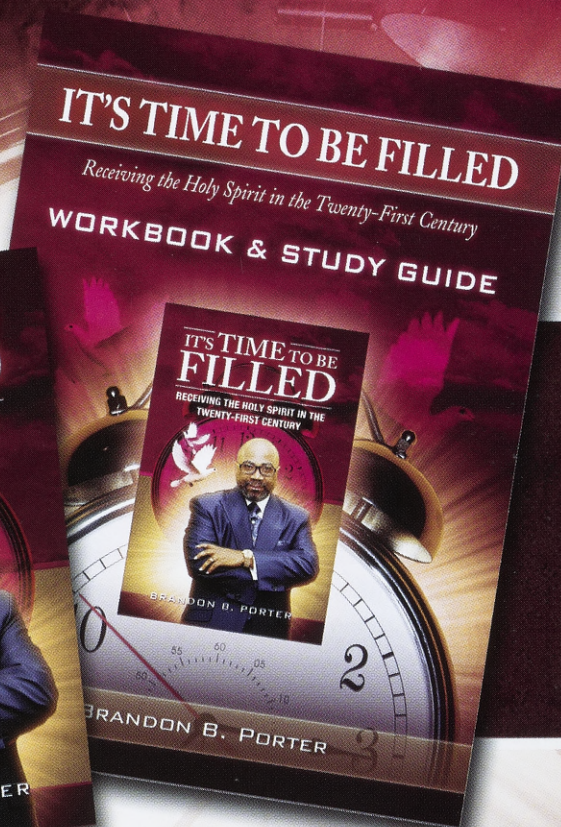
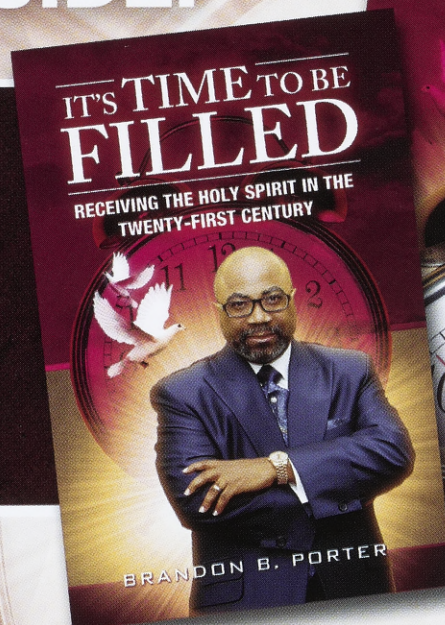
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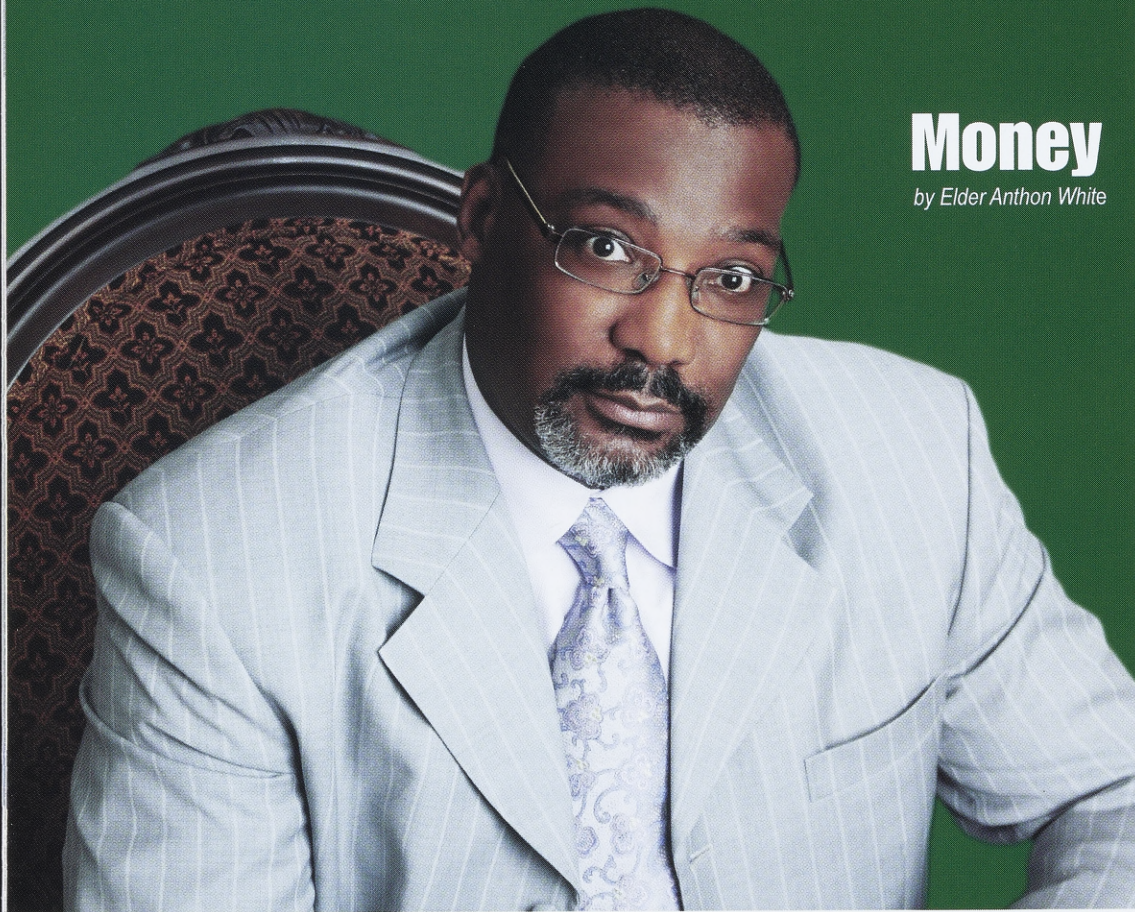
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Money In A Minute

by Elder Anthon White



All computers have an operating system. It provides the computer with an internal code that drives its behavior and sends signals to the hard disk. If you try to boot up a computer with competing systems it will crash.

In many ways churches are like a computer. There is an operating system that runs in the background of everything it does. This operating system continually sends signals that determined how programs are funded, how ministry is organized how the target audience is reached and how daily decisions are made.

Historically, churches are notorious for creating competing systems. Therefore unclear direction and conflicting information threaten to breakdown and paralyze the ministry.

Everything God does is intentional, systematic and with purpose. The natural order gives us

tremendous insight into the detail orientation of the Master Designer. The Genesis account tells us that God created life and He designed various systems to support and sustain it.

Consider the planetary systems and all of the marvelous systems of the human body - the reproductive system, the nervous system etc., they all bear witness to the greatness of God and His attention to methodical detail that sustains His creation.

Many people believe that the church is man's creation. The truth of the matter is, the church is God's creation. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18: Upon this rock I will build my church....

God not only created the church, He also devised a Divine System for its maintenance and perpetuation - Stewardship.

Tithes and offering are critical to stewardship. Leviticus 27:30: And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree is the Lord's. It is holy unto the Lord.

Malachi 3:8: Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Notice the specific definition of the two robberies: 1. Tithes 2. Offerings.

As a result of these robberies, Malachi 3:9: God says ye are cursed with a curse for ye have robbed Me even this whole nation.

Failure to tithe and failure to give offerings result in a curse coming upon your finances. Tithing has always worked. God says, if you tithe, there will be meat (provision) in my house. Your blessing comes from a commitment to the tithe and offering.

Malachi 3:10: And prove Me now herewith saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

The financial principles given throughout God's Word are not there to see if we're strong enough to live by them - they're given because God knows what is best for us. God's principles of finances are not an arbitrary set of rules but they are wisdom from a loving Father to those who will listen and trust Him.

Leviticus 26:3-12 (NIV84)

3. If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands,
4. I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees of the field their fruit.
5. Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land.

6. I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid. I will remove savage beasts from the land, and the sword will not pass through your country.

7. You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you.

8. Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.

9. I will look on you with favor and make you fruitful and increase your numbers, and I will keep my covenant with you.

10. You will still be eating last year's harvest when you will have to move it out to make room for the new.

11. I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you.

12. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.

The important principle here is that total obedience to God's commands will result in blessings. The word bless means empowered to prosper. God never intended for His people to live from one financial miracle to another financial miracle. We are blessed to be a blessing!

The Bible says in Genesis 26:1: And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.

Genesis 26:6: And Isaac dwelt in Gerar.

Gerar means a temporary lodging place. Upon further examination, Gerar also means to chew, to saw and to destroy. Notice, God told Isaac to sow in a place that was meant to chew him up, saw him into pieces and ultimately destroy him.

Genesis 26:12 says: Then Isaac sowed in that land and received in the same year an hundred-fold and

the Lord blessed him.

Today this tells us that God can bless you anywhere! God is not limited or governed by the economy. Isaac reaped in that same year a hundred fold!

Many times we miss the harvest - the blessing God has for us because we quit sowing in times of famine. Instead of breaking through we find ourselves backing up. Murmur means to back-up.

Many people are backing up on their prayer life, backing up on reading the word, backing up on giving...

Many times at the point of our breakthrough we break down because instead of praising God and demonstrating our faith in His promises we begin to murmur and become discouraged...we back up.

I want you to be encouraged! There are blessings that are yours by design - commanded blessings. God has divinely ordered them for you but you are not going to get them until you are in position. When you obey God you position yourself for supernatural blessings.

True riches are in the earth: diamonds are in the earth, oil is in the earth, gold is in the earth and the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

MUSIC MATTERS

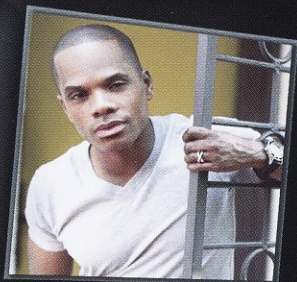
by C. P. Jr. and Billboard

F

ear? It seems fear does not pose a threat to Kirk Franklin in his latest CD. Instead he opts to speak directly to it. *Hello Fear* is a project that will emote a positive, happy, and uplifting attitude to listeners by spreading the gospel to all who hear it. In this offering Kirk Franklin undeniably proclaims the gospel of Jesus with his melodies, and even more so potent lyrics, lyrics that have the ability to meet you at the point of your need and help you through any turbulent situation. With tracks such as "Smile", "Alter", "Something About the Name of Jesus Part 2", and "Before I Die" this project is just what the doctor ordered for this new generation of gospel music. Maintaining a much needed balance between old and new, this contemporary gospel CD is a sure need, landing itself on the Billboard gospel chart as No.1 for many consecutive weeks.



Up-tempo pop meets gospel in Mary Mary's latest project *Something Big*. This album is laced with awesome beats and catchy tunes. After a 3 year hiatus, something bigger is in store for all listeners of all ages. With songs like "Walking", "Catch Me", and "Never Wave", listeners will catch the essence of the message that they are intending, to proclaim the gospel to all walks of life. By continuously stepping out the box, Mary Mary is consistent with the fact that their music is contemporary and able to reach the masses. It lands itself a spot on the Billboard gospel chart at No. 3.



20 weeks at the top.

Not quite gospel but very inspirational.

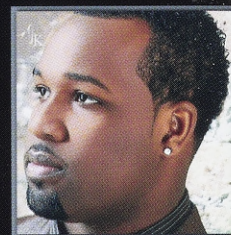
Do ya thang.
Do ya thang.

1. *I Smile* by Kirk Franklin

15 weeks and rising.

All you have to say is,

Yes, Yes Lord.



3. *Nobody Greater* by VaShawn Mitchell

One of our very own is at the top.

He got it right.
Nobody greater.

2. *My Heart Says Yes*

by Troy Sneed: A new spin on what Dad Mason taught us.



4. *Over & Over* by Trin-i-tee 5:7 feat. PJ Morton

Great music but it always sounds the same. Not necessarily a buy unless you have a free coupon.

Great worship.

Useful in prayer.

5. *Give Myself Away* by William McDowell (LIVE)

6. *Well Done* by Deitrick Haddon: You never know where he's coming from but by the end, you know where he's trying to get to.

7. *Walking...* by Mary Mary

Does every record have to be the same?

8. *He Has His Hands On You* by Marvin Sapp Great music pastor and I'm glad about it.



It's
HOT.

9. *I Believe* by James Fortune & FIYA feat. Zacardi Cortez and Shawn McLemore

10. *God Is Great* by Ricky Dillard and New G Now he knows how to direct.

Mmm.

11. *Need Your Glory* by Earnest Pugh

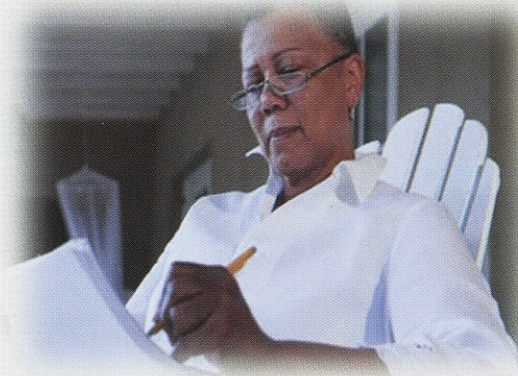
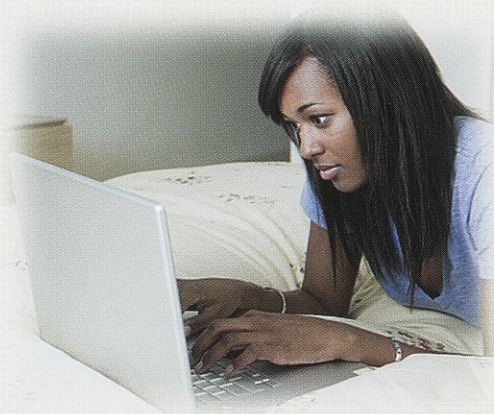
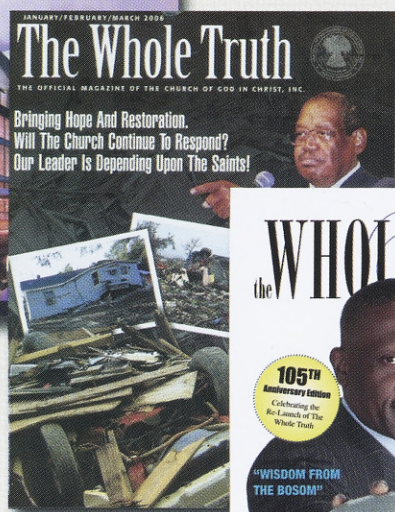
12. *God Made Me* by Mississippi Mass Choir Great old fashioned pick em up and put em down music.

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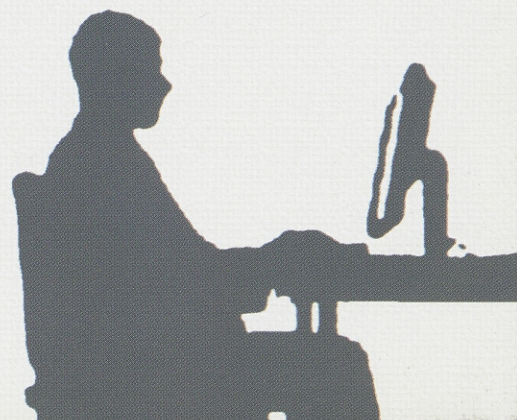
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